

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students

Prayer

On the feast of All Saints we honour all holy women and men, known or unknown, lowly or mighty.

All – powerful God,
You always call your people to holiness.
Give us poverty of spirit,
a thirst for justice
and purity of heart.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Term 4 Professional Development Day

On Monday 19 October staff gathered for the annual Religious Education Professional Development Day. The day began with Mass at St Mary's Church, followed by a presentation on the 'Circular Letter to Directors of Bishops Conferences on Religious Education' by Fr Gleeson. The document comes from Rome and provides some clear directions for us in maintaining the fundamental Catholic nature of our school. Some time was spent contextualising the letter by considering the Australian scene and local demographic data. We then reviewed the document "So You're Working for the Catholic Church". It was an excellent day, providing renewed commitment to our Mission.

School Captains

With the conclusion of classes for our Year 12 students and movement into the HSC examinations has come the need to replace our school leaders. Elections for Year 12 SLC representatives for 2010 were held late in Term 3 so that a smooth transition into leadership roles could take place. Captains were announced at the Year 12 Farewell Assembly and formal inauguration will take place at the Award Night on 14 December. The following students were elected:

Captains – Mikala Dickie and Jack Rixon

Vice Captains – Mia Bruno and Liam Richards

SLC representatives - Jessica Barnes, Lori Snowden, Josephine Thornberry, Hiliary Thornberry, Liz Utting, Maegan Williams, Aaron Balderston, Sam Connell, Phillip Lo, Andrew McIlveen, Jack Rayment and Ben Vella.

Staff Changes

Mrs Mariette Duns (Food Technology/Hospitality teacher and VET Coordinator) has retired after 26 years working at Our Lady of the Rosary College and McCarthy. Miss Kathryn O'Sullivan (English/Religious Education teacher) will be studying in the US in 2010. Miss Ginaya Wieland (Additional Needs Teacher and Year 8 Coordinator) will take up a position with the Lismore Diocese.

More will be said about these farewells in the final newsletter for the year.

Mr Andrew Davy is replacing Mr David Coupland this term while he is on Long Service Leave.

Miss Angela Cowley is filling the job-share arrangement with Mrs Ashleigh Jones for the remainder of the year. Angela will be at the school each Friday.

We warmly welcome both of these teachers.

Miss Melissa Davis returns to the role of Administration Coordinator this term following a break from the position. Mrs Tracey Bradbery filled the role admirably during Term 3 and we thank her for her hard work and initiative.

Mr Jason Vella has been filling Mr Mark Falkenmire's Student Management Coordinator role for the past two weeks while Mark has been on leave. He has managed the responsibilities very well.

Change of Email Address

The school's email address has changed. It is now admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au. Please use this address for all future correspondence.

New Zealand Trip

The McCarthy Rugby and Netball Tour of New Zealand took place during the school holidays and was, again, a great success. Please refer to the report later in the newsletter for details.

HSC

The Higher School Certificate examinations began for many of our students on Tuesday 20 October with the Business Studies and Agriculture papers. The exams are running smoothly so far and will conclude for the McCarthy 2009 cohort on 13 November. The Year 12 Graduation will be held at the Tamworth Town Hall on Monday 16 November.

Diary Dates

2 November:	Whole School Mass 11.30am
3 November:	Year 11 Twilight Retreat 5pm
9-11 November:	School Certificate
11 November:	Year 11 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews 4-7pm
12 November:	Year 10 Dinner Dance
16 November:	Year 12 Graduation
16 November:	Eye to the Future Workshop
18 November:	Year 11/12 Book Sale
23 November:	Year 7-9 Yearly Exams begin
24 November:	ESSA Test (Year 8)
1 December:	Parent Information Evening for new students 2010 7pm
2 December:	Year 7 2010 Orientation Day
8-11 December:	Year 9 Excursion
14 December:	Award Night

PAC Update

The steel frames have been installed and work continues in earnest. Police have been working hard to apprehend the arsonists and are confident of an arrest.

Attestation Review

On Wednesday 28 October, representatives from the Catholic Schools Office reviewed the school's Attestation of compliance. This involved the presentation of elements of our compliance records for assessment. This is just one part of an extensive process to ensure all areas of school operation, from curriculum to supervision and safety, meet Board of Studies requirements for registration.

Family Support Fund

A group of parents has requested the formation of a Family Support Group to assist families in our school community in need. The group will coordinate activities and fundraising to enable us to provide financial and other support in extreme circumstances. Any parents interested in being a part of the group should contact Lynda Dehm (phone: 67671023), Rachel Schmiedel (phone: 6761778) or Raeleen Iuso (67671331).

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**All Souls Mass**

The final whole school Mass for the year will be held on All Souls Day on 2 November. Students will attend Mass at 11.30am at all four churches in Tamworth. All parents and friends are most welcome to join McCarthy students and staff at this Mass.

Twilight Retreat

There will be a Twilight Retreat for Year 11 students on Tuesday 3 November between 5.00pm and 9.00pm. This is the first of three Twilight Retreats for this group and we encourage them to make plans to attend, as these Retreats are always a valuable experience for senior students.

Year 10 Mass

The final Mass for Year 10 will be held on 12 November at 9.30am at St Mary's Church, North Street.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE**Condolences**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Melanie Jones, Stephanie Lauritzen, Natasha and Marnie Darlington and their families following the death of their grandmothers and Harry and Maddy Lord, Mitchell and Lewis Schirmer and their families following the death of their grandfathers.

Theme for the Week

The last week of Term 3 saw us expressing gratitude for our many blessings.

We have started this term with the theme 'Care'. Care is the first word on the McCarthy *Code of Conduct*. Caring – being kind, thoughtful, considerate, helpful and empathetic – is an integral component of our McCarthy culture. Caring is the responsibility of all McCarthy community members – staff, students and parents. Jesus showed us how to care for others, particularly the marginalised, and we should always follow his example.

Grandies

The next Grandparenting Support Group meeting will be held at Tamworth Community Centre on Monday 2 November at 1.00pm. The guest speaker is Sandy Hawley from Tamworth Family Support Services. Contact Kerry Little phone: 6766 4480 for enquiries.

Social Justice Focus

Included on our daily notices are references to current and historic social justice issues. The primary purpose is to encourage students to think about justice and service, by learning of the efforts and achievements of those who work for the common good in our world. Recent references include World Mission Sunday, the Beatification of Mother Theresa and Uluru being handed back to the traditional owners. I encourage families to discuss these issues.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Martin Luther King Jr, 1929-1968 American civil rights leader and minister.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

CURRICULUM MATTERS

Term 4 will be a very busy one for both staff and students in terms of curriculum. Our Year 12 students began their HSC last week and all seems to be going well. We will wait in anticipation for the results in December.

Year 11

Year 11 students are finalising their Preliminary courses, and will have a report issued in Week 3. Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will be held on Wednesday 11 November from 4.00pm – 7.00pm.

Many Year 11 students are planning to change their pattern of study by 'dropping' a subject. In some cases, this is a sensible move and should provide additional time for them to be organised and to keep up to date with the requirements of their remaining subjects. It is important however, to understand the self discipline that is required to realise your potential in the HSC. Study periods are for work and study. They are NOT social occasions or an opportunity to play games. In addition, reducing the number of units to a minimum has an inherent risk; students are not required by the Board of Studies to drop a subject and I encourage students to think carefully about any decision.

Year 10 are currently preparing for the School Certificate. Reports will be sent home soon.

Junior students commence their end of year exams in Week 6.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

Even during the HSC, careers information continues to arrive. Students should continually check their emails from me regarding dates (eg TAFE applications for high demand courses close at the end of October) and job vacancies. Last week I had phone calls from five local employers looking for both full-time and part-time employees.

Students who were successful in their applications for early entry to university will be notified by the universities at the end of November or early December.

Year 10

I will be interviewing students who had indicated in Term 3 that they were considering leaving school after Year 10. I spoke to all students at a Year meeting last week regarding work experience for the rest of this year. Only those students seeking full-time employment in 2010 are able to do work experience through the school in the period after the School Certificate, as outlined in the Work Experience Policy on the Careers page of the school website: <http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/index.php>

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

SCIENCE

This term will be busy and students should start to intensify their efforts in preparation for their yearly exams.

All Year 8 students have been issued with an official notification containing information regarding the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) test. ESSA is an external diagnostic test which will provide information about what students know and can do in Science. It is based on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the NSW Science Years 7 - 10 Syllabus.

The test will take place at school on the 24 November 2009. It takes approximately 80 minutes and consists of multiple choice, short and extended response questions. The test is marked externally and results will be available in Term 1 2010. Extra copies of the ESSA notice dated 30 October 2009 are available from the office.

Please do not hesitate in contacting the school should you have any questions regarding ESSA.

Mr James Vella – Science Coordinator

LANGUAGES

2009 Assessment of Language Competence

Congratulations to the 9 students of French who participated in the ACER (Australian Council for Education Research) Assessment of Language Competence 2009. The results of every student were outstanding.

This language skills test requires students to respond to realistic texts and situations in French in both listening and reading skills areas.

Students are awarded results in each skill area.

Credit

Reading: Heather Catterall, Anna Sheridan, Alex Clarke

Listening: Ellen Barrett, Jacqui Brandenburg

Distinction

Reading: Liam Daly, Brittany Rae, Ellen Barrett

Listening: Heather Catterall, Caitlin O'Rourke

High Distinction

Reading: Caitlin O'Rourke

Listening: Liam Daly, Shae Parsons, Brittany Rae, Anna Sheridan, Alex Clarke.

Félicitations!

Mrs Penny Crowley – Language Teacher

CREATIVE ARTS

The Creative Arts Faculty hosted young rising Country Music star Amber Lawrence at school last Wednesday. She entertained about sixty students with songs from her new album and shared information about her song writing and the music industry. This opportunity was made possible by the Austar for Schools Program and included a lovely new guitar and a cheque for \$2000 being donated to the Creative Arts Department.

Mrs Deborah Fulwood – Creative Arts Coordinator

NZ TOUR

During the holiday break twenty-eight students from Years 10 and 11 and four staff members, (Mr Williams, Mr Northey, Miss Sjollem and Miss O'Sullivan), travelled to New Zealand to play Aquinas College at Tauranga for the AMC Shield (Rugby and Netball). They participated in adventure and cultural activities such as white water rafting (Rotorua), Skyline Gondola and Luge (Rotorua), Rapids jet boats (Taupo), bungy jumping (Taupo), Hole-in-One golfing extravaganza (Taupo), Skytower (Auckland) and the Auckland Museum. The group stayed in backpackers accommodation where they had the opportunity to cook for themselves and meet both locals and international visitors to share stories and laughs. A great trip was had by all.

Congratulations to the winners drawn from the NZ Tour Raffle:

Donations

Sharon's Shortcuts (hair products)

Mr and Mrs McNamara, Quirindi (jumper)

Nemingha and Joe McGuires Hotel (meals)

Betta Electrical, Gunnedah (stereo)

Wades Butchery, Bingara (meat voucher)

Fitness Plus (vouchers)

Mrs Gail Jeffriess (knife set)

Blackwoods, Tamworth (socket set)

Elgas, Tamworth (grinder)

Winners

Sarah Hinklebein

Kate Walden

Bridie Lea and Mark Bissell

Sally O'Connor

Gerry Cannon

Kelly O'Neill, Chris Burgess, Scott Bray, Pat Burrows, Andra Milne

Larry Marker

Gemma Hunt

Sam Howard

We thank these people/businesses for their kind donations and support of our school.

We wish to also thank Penrose Meats (Andra Milne), JT Fossey (John Keating) and Mary Sylvester for their donations towards the BBQ fundraiser held at the end of last term.

YEAR 7

Fourth term is an important term for Year 7. They will do their first yearly examinations in Week 6. Each student should be now studying each night. It is suggested that they spend 20 to 30 minutes on a subject at a time. It is important "to do something with the information" not just read over their notes.

This term Year 7 students have commenced office duty. This involves running errands for the Administration. Those students who are not rostered this term will have a turn next year.

Mr Bernie Williams – Year 7 Coordinator

YEAR 8

Welcome back to an extremely busy Term 4. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break. There is a lot to take place in only 9 weeks.

We would like to welcome Stephanie Watt to our Year group and thank Mikala Dimmock and Carly Wilkes for acting as wonderful buddies. Students have received their Term Calendar and Assessment outline earlier this week. Technology classes have changed again and students will complete their final rotation of the Technology strand.

It is with great sadness that I announce my departure from the McCarthy community at the end of 2009. I will miss all the staff and students, especially my Year group, although, I look forward to a new and exciting challenge.

Miss Ginaya Wieland – Year 8 Coordinator

YEAR 9

Students are well on their way to completing classwork and preparing for assessment tasks for their last term of Year 9. Assessment Schedules and Term Calendars have been issued to students in homeclass to assist with organisation and planning. Please place these in a prominent position at home such as on the fridge door or on a cork board.

To date, approximately seventy students have paid their deposits or paid the full amount for the Outdoor Education Camp to Tea Gardens during Week 8. Please attend to this if you have not already done so. More specific details such as cabin groups and departure times will be organised as the date gets closer. Students, when reflecting on their time at McCarthy, always pinpoint the Tea Gardens Outdoor Education Camp as one their highlights of their time here. I know that many of the students are looking forward to the camp.

Many Year 9 students are gaining part-time employment at local businesses. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their skills in organisation and customer service, and gives them a real sense of responsibility. We are always supportive of part-time employment and advise parents and students that a healthy balance is required of school, work and family/social life.

Mrs Sharon Stuart – Year 9 Coordinator

YEAR 10

Welcome back to all and I hope everyone had a very relaxing break. This term will be a very busy term for all Year 10 students as they prepare to do their School Certificate in Week 4. A Year meeting was held last Thursday and all students were given a letter to take home. This letter contains information in relation to important dates and times of events that will involve all Year 10 students from Monday 9 to Thursday 12 November. If your child did not receive one of these letters, they may collect one from the office. I encourage all students to continue to focus on their studies over the next few weeks as they prepare for their School Certificate examinations.

If you need to discuss anything in relation to your child's education or procedures for this term, please contact me at the school.

Last Day for Year 10

The last official day for Year 10 is Thursday 10 December.

Mrs Libby Molony – Year 10 Coordinator

YEAR 11

Congratulations to our School Captains, Jack Rixon and Mikala Dickie, and Vice Captains, Liam Richards and Mia Bruno. I am looking forward to working with them over the coming year.

This is a busy term for Year 11 students as they move into their final year of school. Students have been asked to indicate which subject, if any, they are considering discontinuing. They are required to complete a green form that has to be signed by parents. Please talk to your child about this as it is necessary that they consider their options carefully, not just discontinuing a subject to get study periods. They need to look at where their strengths are and what subjects will benefit their future. Students can make an appointment and talk to Mrs Sparke about their best options.

Good luck to Melanie Hussey, Blake Hamilton, Jack Barker and Rodney Rolls who are participating in the World Skills Competition next week in Armidale.

The Term Calendar has been distributed and contains a number of important dates. Students need to regularly refer to this as a reminder of impending events. Two important dates are Year 11 Reports issued 4 November and Parent/Teacher Interviews 11 November. It is important that parents evaluate the Reports with their child. Your support is greatly valued.

Year 12 will be selling secondhand text books on Wednesday 18 November. Interested Year 11 students will need to bring cash if they wish to purchase any of these books.

There are still some students who are disruptive in class. This is not acceptable and these students need to realise that others around them are finding this very frustrating. If there is a problem they need to come and see me.

Parents and students are always welcome to email me at j.burt@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

I look forward to another wonderful term.

Mrs Jane Burt – Year 11 Coordinator

YEAR 12

Term 3 ended very well, with students showing appropriate behaviour at all celebratory activities. We were all pleased that this very exciting time for students ended with no significant injuries or vandalism to property. I hope that students have worked well in their study vacation and I congratulate those who attended study seminars arranged by staff here at school.

Our HSC exams are well underway and these seem to be going smoothly. Students must ensure that they are on time for exams and have all equipment. If there are any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Text Book Sale

Year 12 will have the opportunity to sell textbooks to Year 11 on Wednesday 18 November during periods 3 and 4. This will take place in the hall and be supervised by myself and Mrs Burt. Please price and label books appropriately and ensure that your sons and daughters have small change.

Graduation

The Graduation will be held at the Town Hall on Monday 16 November. Tickets can be purchased from the school office. There will be a practise for all students at the Town Hall at 11.00am on the same day. I look forward to sharing this formal occasion with you.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill – Year 12 Coordinator

EX-STUDENTS NEWS

Bill Chaffey (class of 1993) was an avid triathlete before an accident in 2005 left him with critical injuries. He now competes in wheelchair triathlons and has recently won the ITU Triathlon World Championship gold medal in the paratriathlete TR1 Handcycle category. He hopes to compete in the Gold Coast Half Ironman Triathlon race in October.

Katherine Murphy (class of 1987) was awarded the 2008 Paul Lyneham Award for Excellence in Press Gallery journalism for her work on the final months of the Howard Government. In 2007 she became national affairs correspondent based in the Age's Canberra Bureau, and the *SMH* featured a recent article on the Prime Minister's office.

Katie Lillyman was selected from more than 40 applicants to walk the Kokoda Track as part of the Clubs NSW Youth Leadership Challenge.

Sam Kelly is co-owner of Cafe 2340 in Tamworth.

Kylie Boyraz (nee Warner) (Class of 1988) has been visiting local schools as part of the Tamworth Relationship Centre programs.

SPORT

McCarthy Girls Hockey 2009

McCarthy had 4 girls' hockey teams in the Tamworth competition this year. The McCarthy Gold team played in 3rd Division and finished 4th before losing their minor semi-final 1-0. The McCarthy Blue team finished 3rd in 2nd Division and won their minor semi-final 2-1, but unfortunately failed to make the grand final after drawing their preliminary final 0 all. The McCarthy Firsts finished minor premiers by 6 points, but unfortunately failed to make the grand final after two tight losses in the finals.

The only McCarthy team to make a grand final was the McCarthy White 2nd division team. They completed an undefeated season with a tough 1-0 grand final win over Tamworth High. Melanie Hussey scored the winning goal in the 4th minute. The McCarthy White team was: *Lauren Brown, Sarah Crowe, Anna Howard, Sam Howard, Melanie Hussey, Maddy Lord, Zillah Moloney, Jacqui O'Leary, Lori Snowden, Rebecca Snowden, Gemma Turner, Maegan Watts and Lauren Watts. Jacqui O'Leary was also named the best and fairest player in second division.*

Josie Thornberry was named joint best and fairest in third division.

The following girls were recognised for their umpiring during the season: *Peta Anderson, Lauren Ayres, Georgia Cooper, Caitlin McHugh, Tegan Smith, and Maddie Doyle who also received an umpiring encouragement award.*

To cap off the season McCarthy was named the most successful school in Tamworth secondary girls' hockey for the 4th straight year. This award is based on the final point scores of all divisions and is therefore the result of the efforts of all players.

I would like to especially thank our four Year 12 players, Rachel Ayres, Sarah Hetherington, Stephanie Taylor and Jess Thomas for their contribution to McCarthy Girls Hockey over the past 6 years.

Mr Geoff Denton

Netball

In 2009 McCarthy Catholic College Netball Club registered 174 players in the Tamworth Netball Winter Competition. McCarthy registered the highest number of teams in the competition.

Ten teams qualified for the semis, seven moved to finals and four teams to the grand final: MCC Superstars 13/14C, MCC Sexy Socks 13/14C, MCC Mixups 15/16C and MCC Pocket Rockets 15/16B. The winning team was MCC Sexy Socks. Congratulations to all girls that participated.

The club, in conjunction with the school, introduced a new netball uniform in 2009. The association have given the school two seasons for the transition to the new uniform. Three of the five teams that travelled to Sydney in August to compete in the NSW CCC Championships wore the new netball uniform and looked outstanding and received many positive comments. Next year we hope to have all representative teams in the new uniform.

Thanks go to all coaches, parents and students for their help during the year as well as Mrs Kate Woolaston and Mrs Colleen O'Meagher who are the school contacts for netball. Special thank you to Mrs Andra Milne for all her time and the professional way the Netball Club is run.

Waterpolo

The 2009-2010 season has commenced. On Monday nights, two McCarthy girls' teams are playing in the Schoolgirls competition, while one boy's team is competing on Tuesday nights in the Schoolboys/B Grade Men's competition at South Tamworth Memorial Pool. Training is on Friday mornings at Tamworth City Pool.

Mrs Julie McGregor

Touch Football

The Years 7/8 All Schools Touch Regional Qualifying Tournament was held at Tamworth on Tuesday 27 October.

The girls - Brittany Coe, Dana Constable, Mikala Dimmock, Liz Doherty, Alyza Doulis, Molly Lyden, Caitlin McHugh, and Ainsley Thornberry remained undefeated in all their round games and were only narrowly defeated by Calrossy in the final with a score of 2 – 1. Each member of the team scored at least one try throughout the day. Brittany Coe and Mikala Dimmock scored 5 tries each and Caitlin McHugh scored 4 tries. The girls were a very cohesive team and many thanks to Mrs Kim Coe for her coaching on the day.

The boys - Ted Alderton, Jake Deasy, Nathan French, Luke Fulwood, Connor Haddad, Nick Lyons, Ben Russell, Nathan Smith, Ben Taggart and Jack Wibberley. All members of the team played very well throughout the day. Unfortunately, they did not reach the final. The highest try scorer was Nick Lyons.

PARENT INFORMATION

Attention All Wests Tigers Supporters !!!

McCarthy Association has a wonderful framed paper tolle Tigers logo ready for the taking. This would be a fantastic gift idea for Christmas. If you would like to make an offer on this fabulous keepsake or make an enquiry about it, please phone Vicki McDonald on 6767 4234 or 0408 690 203.

Mangoes, Mangoes and more Mangoes

Our final fundraiser for the year is the ever popular mango drive. All students have been given an information sheet and order form through their homeclass. Parents will be notified of the delivery date in a future newsletter.

Safe Celebrating, Parties and Alcohol

Watch this space for the Safe Celebrating, Parties and Alcohol parent information session – coming soon.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 17 November 2009 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 Vacancy

A vacancy exists for a volunteer to assist Jenny Hatfield in the Clothing Pool. The role will require a commitment to approximately 1 hour per week (12.30pm – 1.30pm each Wednesday). Other additional availability is negotiable. Please contact the Principal if you are able to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Debby Lamont-Catterall for her contribution to the operation of the Clothing Pool for the past five years.

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.

To Parents of Learner Drivers

Are you helping a learner complete the 120 hours?

The RTA and Joblink Plus are holding a free two hour workshop that will help parents in supervising learner drivers. These workshops will offer practical advice on:

- Understanding the new laws for L and P licence holders
- Completing the Learner Log Book
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience
- Low risk driving tips and communication strategies

Joblink Plus will be conducting the **next free parent workshop at 7pm Tuesday 3 November 2009** at the Community Centre in Darling Street. **Bookings are essential** so phone 67646688 now to reserve your place.