

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students

Prayer

Act of Adoration

I adore You, O Jesus, true God and true Man, here present in the Holy Eucharist. I kneel before You united in spirit with all the faithful on earth and all the blessed in heaven in deepest gratitude for all the blessings I have received. Give me grace never to offend You, and grant that, at the end of my time on earth, I may be worthy to come into Your presence in heaven. Forever and ever. Amen.

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. In April, it is the Blessed Sacrament. One thing that sets Catholics apart from other Christians who believe in the Real Presence (that the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ) is that we don't believe that the Real Presence ends when the Sacrament of Holy Communion is complete. Frequent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle, is a path to spiritual growth.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

I hope all families had a safe and happy Easter. The students who represented McCarthy during the Easter Triduum in our parishes are to be congratulated. A significant number of students participated in all sorts of ways, enhancing worship at what are the most solemn and joyous times in the Church year.

Thank you to all the students and families who attended the Dawn Service and ANZAC March. The participation and presentation of McCarthy staff and students was outstanding.

During the holidays Miss Leanne Sjollema, Mr Rob Maxwell and 5 students represented our school very capably at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. This was a very big commitment from all involved, including families.

Term 1 Report

During Term 1, a range of improvement goals were set across the school. Our Annual Development Plan was published in Draft form and will be available on the website early this term. Many of our goals have already been met or are in development in areas such as communication systems, absenteeism, professional development, behaviour management, uniform, boys' education, parent participation, ICT and facilities management. Term 2 Goals will be established during Week 1.

Performing Arts Centre Update

The process of replacing the PAC is still in the early stages. I understand that an Engineer's Report has been received by the Loss Assessor, who will now make a recommendation for works necessary for the reconstruction of the Centre. In the interim, we have negotiated with the insurance company for the lease of a demountable structure as temporary accommodation for the displaced Drama and Music classes.

New Staff

This term we welcome Mr Julian Rice to the English staff, replacing Miss Ellene Travassaros. Julian comes to us from Sydney. He has extensive experience in teaching and executive roles in both the Catholic and State education systems. Julian holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, a Diploma of Education, a Master of Education and is currently completing a Certificate of Religious Education.

McCarthy Association Initiatives

I recommend parents keep an eye on the Association space in the Newsletter for information regarding significant initiatives on behalf of our parent body. Members of the Association are working to assist the improvement of communication to parents and to provide valuable programs to assist in the parenting of teenagers.

Open Day

McCarthy's Open Day will be held on Saturday 16 May from 10am to 1pm. Please extend an invitation to family and friends of any prospective parents. They are most welcome to use this opportunity to have a tour of our school.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Caritas

The fundraising effort during Lent, for Caritas, has been very successful. We will present a cheque for \$7600 to Brian Sullivan on behalf of Caritas early this term. These funds will be put to good use, both in Australia and overseas, through aid projects which are designed to assist in creating a more equitable existence for fellow human beings who don't share the opportunities we do. Thank you to all those families, students and staff who contributed, so generously, to this appeal.

St Vinnies

St Vinnies members again held a successful Easter Egg drive, with many students and staff enjoying the fruits of their efforts by being winners in the raffle. Fourteen prizes went to the following people: Libby Molony, Melissa Davis, Stephanie Linguard-Hughes, Shae Parsons, Rob Meppem, Sharon Stuart, Janet Nolan, Louise Byrne, Katrina Sullivan, Carol Wheaton, Donna Forrest, Hayley McDonald and Brianna Maher. A special thank you to families, staff, students and Carlo's IGA, for the donation of eggs. St Vinnies members also visited the hospital and distributed eggs and Easter greetings to patients.

Retreat

The first Twilight Retreat for the year will be held on 4 May from 5pm – 9pm for Year 12 students. We hope as many students as possible will attend. We know it is a busy time for them, but it is good for them to take some time out to take care of their spiritual needs.

Diary Dates

1 May: Soccer Gala Day
 1,2,3 May: CCC Basketball
 4 May: Year 12 Twilight Retreat
 5 May: Blessed Edmund Rice
 6 May: NSWCCC Swimming
 8 May: Diocesan Touch Football
 12 May: NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9)
 16 May: Open Day
 20 May: Year 12/10 Parent/Teacher Interviews

Public Meeting

Sr Jan Barnett will be speaking at a public meeting at Mary Help of Christians Hall on Monday 4 May commencing at 7pm. It will be 100 years on the 8 August since the death of Blessed Mary McKillop. Sr Jan will speak of the work begun by Mary and how that has expanded to address the various needs in today's society, particularly in the area of social justice.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Co-ordinators

PASTORAL CARE**Condolences**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kerrod Binge and his family following the death of his grandmother.

New families

We welcome Daniel McDonald (Year 7), Stephanie Potter (Year 9), Chynna Curtis (Year 10), Jeremy Boyle (Year 11), and Sarah Cross (Year 11) to our school this term.

Winter Uniforms

Please check that you have all winter uniform items. Please note that the tie must be worn at all times. Tunics must be worn below the knee and opaque socks/tights must be worn above the knee.

If you are having difficulty acquiring the uniform please contact your child's Year Co-ordinator or myself.

Please check that jumpers and tracksuits are labelled, as they are often handed in to lost property.

Theme for the Week

In the last week of Term 1, Homeclasses discussed forgiveness – who has forgiven them, who they should forgive, how to forgive and why we should forgive. This is an interesting topic for discussion at the family table.

Current Information

It is imperative that you notify the office of any changes in living arrangements and contact details.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

CURRICULUM MATTERS**NAPLAN 2009**

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

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

The tests will be held according to the following timetable:

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

Wednesday 13 May: Reading test

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

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

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

A sample group of students in Year 7 and Year 9 will also participate in a NAPLAN Equating Study on Monday 4 May (Week 2). The study is conducted to analyse the comparative difficulty of the 2008 and 2009 tests. The Year 7 group will complete the Numeracy paper and Year 9 will provide data related to the Reading test.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

We have changed the structure of Parent/Teacher interview evenings for 2009 to alleviate some of the issues related to 'crowding'. Consequently, Parent/Teacher interviews will be held for Years 10 and 12 students on Wednesday 20 May. Please take the opportunity to come and talk to your child's teacher/s on this night. Nights for the other Year levels will be held later in the term.

Assessment Tasks

The Board of Studies requires that we have assessment programs for students. The tasks that make up these programs are important for measuring and tracking the learning of all students. It is important that students complete these tasks to provide the fullest possible picture of progress. Students in Years 11 and 12 are further reminded of the importance of their Assessment program, which creates the rank order that will help determine their final HSC result. Consequently, there are a number of responsibilities for these Stage 6 students outlined in their Assessment Booklets. In particular, students must hand in all Assessment tasks by 9.00am on the due date. If a student is sick, then the school must be contacted by 9.00am. If students are using computers to complete an Assessment task, then they must keep all drafts and make regular backups to avoid penalty if there is a problem with the computer. It is the student's responsibility to know these rules/guidelines.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Term 2 sees careers related events and decisions starting to increase in frequency and importance for students in Years 10 -12. This term will see significant events such as the *Careers Expo* at the TRECC, *Live Train and Work in Tamworth Expo* in the Town Hall, and the Information Evening for Year 11 2010 (July 7), as well as the University of Newcastle Open Day.

Year 12 students should be actively engaged in researching career and course options, and I will be finishing my interviews with each Year 12 student this term.

The McCarthy Careers webpage will be undergoing major changes in the early weeks of Term 2 and is a major source of information. See: www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

SCIENCE

This will be a big term with all students sitting for Half-yearly exams in Week 5 and then receiving reports later in the term.

Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) 2008 results were sent to the school in late March and these were sent home with the now Year 9 students in Week 11 of Term 1. Year 8 students sat the ESSA exam in 2008 and were tested on areas involving Knowledge and Understanding, Communicating Scientifically and Working Scientifically. Analysis of the results will be taken into account when implementing strategies and teaching programs with the view of improving achievement in Science.

ICAS Science Competition

Thank you to the students and parents who responded to the invitation to take part in the ICAS Science Competition. This competition will provide participants with the opportunity of practicing externally prepared exam questions. The competition will take place at school on 10 June.

Mr James Vella – Science Co-ordinator

TECHNOLOGY

Technology classes in Year 7 and Year 8 have begun with their different Term 2 teachers this week. The decision was made to rotate students each term to utilise our Technology teachers' area of expertise.

Throughout the year, the students should experience the technologies of graphics, information, media, metal, mixed materials, textiles and timber. They will use these technologies to work through the Design Process within the context of an Area of Study such as the Built Environment, Products or Information and Communication. By the end of Year 8, all students should have completed a minimum of six projects.

Technology is a great 'taster' subject for all the TAS electives that McCarthy offers in Years 9 and 10. These subjects include Agricultural Technology, Food Technology, Graphics Technology, Industrial Technology, Information and Software Technology and Textiles Technology.

Ms Suzanne Day - Technological and Applied Studies Co-ordinator

AGRICULTURE

The Sydney Show is always a highlight on the McCarthy Show Team calendar and this year was no exception. McCarthy was well represented by Sarah Hetherington, Brooke McAlister, Sarah Haywood, Kate Lumber and James Forsyth. This year McCarthy competed in both the School and Open steer sections with our black Angus steer "Bob" and our black Limousin steer "Jet". "Jet" won the Reserve Champion Lightweight Carcase and a bronze medal for quality. This year we were very grateful to be able to also exhibit a Hereford steer on behalf of the Hunday Partnership, Quirindi. For the first time, McCarthy exhibited a Simmental Stud Heifer that has been bred by the school. This was exciting for the team and especially for senior student, Sarah Hetherington, who exhibited the heifer with which she shares a name. "Dixie" placed second in her class and won the Sire's Progeny for Simmental judging along with Rob Maxwell's exhibits. McCarthy was represented in the Open Paraders competition by Sarah Haywood who qualified at the Tamworth Zone Finals last month.

Congratulations to Rob Maxwell on winning Grand Champion Simmental Bull, Grand Champion Simmental exhibit, Pair of Bulls and most successful Simmental exhibit with "Casino Royale".



Sarah Hetherington and "McCarthy Dixie"



Kate Lumber and "Jet", Brooke McAlister and "Bob"

The McCarthy Sydney Show team has been fortunate enough to receive sponsorship this year in the form of Show Team Vests in the school colours, organised by Mr Phil Hetherington on behalf of 'Garvin and Cousens', Tamworth. These vests are a fantastic badge of honour for the successful Sydney Show Team members, and the entire McCarthy Show Team would like to sincerely thank 'Garvin and Cousens' for this fabulous support.

McCarthy Catholic College was again represented in the State Finals of Pig Judging this year. Kate Lumber, James Forsyth, Therese Irwin and Gemma Turner were all successful in gaining a place in the Tamworth Zone Team.

Congratulations to James Forsyth for winning the State Title.

Miss Leanne Sjollema - McCarthy Show Team Co-ordinator

YEAR 7

Last term, Year 7 participated in the Outdoor Education program at Lake Keepit Sports and Recreation Centre for 3 days and 2 nights. It was an enjoyable experience which left us hanging upside down in some situations.

On the first day, every group completed one activity. Our group participated in the ropes course without harnesses, which gave us great confidence to trust our buddies, who were spotting for us. We were all very excited on our first night and we took a while to go to sleep. We were looking forward to our next action-packed day.

Day 2 commenced with raft building. We had to build a raft using only materials that were provided, such as rope, barrels, crates and planks of wood. It was interesting to see which crafts floated the best.

Our final challenging activity for the day was abseiling down the rock-climbing wall at the camp. This required a great deal of courage and our instructor proved to be very helpful.

We rose early on our last day to a scrumptious breakfast of pancakes. Our last activity was kayaking on the murky waters of the lake. We were then allowed to have nice hot showers before boarding the bus for our journey home. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely. We would like to thank Mr Williams and all the teachers that attended and made our Outdoor Education experience possible.

Madeleine Sanson, Gabby Dorrstein and Abrielle Schmiedel – Year 7 students

YEAR 8

Welcome back to Term 2. Year 8 go on their Outdoor Education excursion for 2009 in Week 2. Please ensure that all outstanding notes and money are finalised this week. It has been a pleasure being the interim Year 8 Co-ordinator for the past 3 weeks and I know that Miss Wieland is looking forward to telling students about her exciting adventures from the USA.

Mr Luke Adams – Acting Year 8 Co-ordinator

YEAR 11

Welcome back to a new term. I hope the holidays were restful for families.

There are a number of important happenings for Year 11 this term, therefore it is vital that students are organised. If students are absent it is their responsibility to approach their class teacher for the work missed.

Students are to submit Assessment tasks on time or penalties will apply. Please encourage your child to read the Assessment Booklet for all relevant information.

Parents are asked to phone the school if their child is ill on the day of an Assessment task or the student will be penalised. There

I ask parents to please contact me when your son/daughter gets their Provisional Drivers License and begins driving to school so I can keep a record of this. The school's policy regarding this issue will be discussed at our next Year meeting.

Dates to remember for Term 2: Half-yearly Exams Thursday 21 May - Wednesday 29 May, Parent/Teacher Interviews - Wednesday 1 July. A full Term Calendar will be distributed to Year 11 at the next Year meeting.

Mrs Jane Burt – Year 11 Co-ordinator

YEAR 12

Welcome back to what will be a very busy term for Year 12 students, staff and parents. This week students have attended the Careers Expo and gathered extensive information on where they may head in the future. This hands-on experience is very worthwhile, giving students the opportunity to speak with various agencies in an informal setting. Parents who want more information about what can be done to help their son/daughter find a career or course, can keep up with careers related information by subscribing to McCarthy's *CareersAlert*. They will automatically receive emails from Mrs Barrett about recently received information, upcoming events and important dates. Using the McCarthy Careers link from our homepage, www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au, simply click on *Email List* at the top of the page and follow the steps to subscribe.

Parents can also search for information that has already been posted on the site by looking up topics of interest. Just go to *Search* on the top right hand side of the page or click on *Alerts* at the top of the page for previous messages posted by Mrs Barrett.

This is a great resource and parents of ex-students still receive these e-mails for regular updates.

Next week is the second of our Twilight Retreats. This will be held on Monday 4 May. Mrs Wheaton and Mrs Allen will provide details to students through Notices at school. This is an important part of the faith development of our students and they are encouraged to attend.

Over the next few weeks Year 12 students will receive Reports. Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will be conducted on 20 May. These are an important part of addressing any issues that may be of concern.

Parents are asked to remind students of their responsibilities when driving to school especially in regard to carparking. Please encourage your son/daughter to use the designated student carpark and not residential areas near to the school.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill – Year 12 Co-ordinator

SPORT

Northern NSW Year 9/10 All Schools Touch Carnival

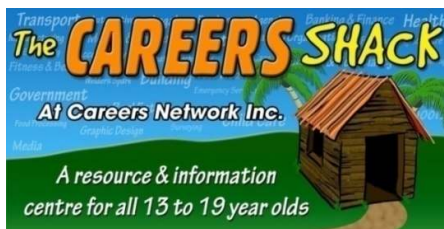
This carnival was held at Tamworth on 31 March and McCarthy was represented by a girls team:- Maddy Bell, Gabby Collier, Morgan Englert, Emily Etheridge, Brooke Ferris, Emma Hatfield, Therese Irwin, Georgia Mason, Claire Perryman, Alice Read and Gemma Williamson. The girls reached the quarterfinal after a 3-1 win against Walcha, a 3-all draw with Narrabri and a 1-0 loss to Quirindi. They lost to Tamworth High School (the eventual winners) in the quarterfinal. Tries were scored by Therese Irwin (3), Alice Read (2), Gemma Williamson, Maddy Bell and Emily Etheridge.

Northern Country Combined Catholic Colleges Rugby League Trials

These trials for Opens and Under 15s were held at Scully Park, Tamworth on 8 April 2009. The Armidale, Lismore and Maitland dioceses were all represented, from which the selectors came up with two 20-strong squads. McCarthy was represented by Nathan Forgione, George Rixon, Peter McGuirk, Blake Waterhouse, Michael Carr and Josh Howarth in the Under 15s and by Rodney Rolls, Matthew Brady, Blair Richards and Liam Richards in the Opens.

Michael Carr has been named in the U15 squad. The state trials will be held in Tamworth for the first time on 22/23 May.

Mr Mark Falkenmire – Sports Co-ordinator



Open Thursdays from 3pm - 6pm Term 2 2009

Located opposite the underground parking entrance to Shoppingworld in Denne Street, Tamworth at the back of West Tamworth school.

The Careers Shack is a free service available to all 13 to 19 year olds. We offer assistance with information on careers, local industry, training, courses, resumes and applications. We also offer supervised internet access, full supervision and a clean, safe and friendly environment. We also invite parents and carers to visit the centre. To find out more information please drop in or call us on 6765 9334.

**McCarthy Catholic College
Open Day
Saturday 16 May 2009
10am – 1pm**



**Grandparenting Support Group
"Grandies" Meeting
Monday 4 May
at Tamworth Community Centre
commencing at 1pm
Enquiries to Kerry Little ph: 6766 4480**

☘ MCCARTHY ASSOCIATION ☘

A letter regarding the Contiki "People to People" Homestay" was distributed to students this week. This gives families and students an opportunity to host American students for 2 nights and show them what typical Australian life is like. If you wish to be a host family please return the cut off note as soon as possible to the school to secure your place on the list. To find out more information about the Homestay program please phone Tania Roberts on ph: 6765 2283 or Tracey Carrington on ph: 6765 2927.

The Association would also like to extend an invitation to all interested parents to our next meeting to be held on 19 May at 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the staff room. We have some very exciting new initiatives underway and are keen to have as much input as possible. Some of these initiatives include additions to the McCarthy website eg transition to Secondary School, parent information sessions, fundraising activities for the year, etc.

Tracey Carrington – Publicity Officer (ph: 6765 2927)