

Postal Address: PO Box 3486 West Tamworth NSW 2340 Website: www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

Email: admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au McCarthy Office Hours: 7.30am – 4.00pm



Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

"Be still, and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10)

Bestow upon me, O Lord my God, understanding to know Thee, diligence to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee and a faithfulness

that I may finally embrace Thee.

Thomas Aquinas

<u>Please note</u>: this is the only paper copy of the Newsletter that will be distributed unless a request is made through the office.

Diary Dates

15 Feb: Board Meeting 5.30pm

15 Feb: Association Wine & Cheese Night 6.30pm

21 Feb: Association Meeting22 Feb: Senior Success Program24 Feb: Twilight Swimming Carnival

25 Feb: Pupil Free Day

5 March: Open Day 10.00am – 1.00pm

7 March: Warraymalaya Retreat 9 March: Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass

11 March: Diocesan Swimming Carnival 14 March: Year 10 Canberra Excursion

15 March: Board Meeting

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Welcome

Welcome back to the new school year to all our faithful families. A special welcome is extended to all our new families. The year has begun well and students are settled into classes and working hard. The full range of extra and co-curricular activities will become available over the coming weeks and I encourage students to take up the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that many of these activities offer, which will be of long term benefit. We look forward to working with families to provide an excellent education deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition.

Farewell Beth Ryan

At the end of 2010 we farewelled Mrs Beth Ryan from our staff. Beth had been Canteen Supervisor at the College (and Our Lady of the Rosary College) for 14 years. We wish her well in her retirement.

New Staff

This year we welcome three new teachers to our staff: Miss Megan Barnes (full-time permanent in English), Mr Charlie James (full-time temporary in Science and Technology) and Mrs Fiona James (part-time temporary in Science). Mr Kim Slattery has also rejoined the staff in a part-time capacity, teaching senior Physics.

We also welcome Mrs Raelee Balderston as Canteen Supervisor and Mr Blake Hamilton in Tech Support.

Each one of these staff members will bring something special to our school community and we look forward to having them 'on board'.

McCarthy Executive Staff for 2011

Principal: Mrs Kate Rayment
Assistant Principal: Mrs Sally Sparke
Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Ms Denise McHugh

Religious Education Coordinators: Mrs Cate Allen, Mrs Carol Wheaton

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Mrs Julie McGregor Student Management Coordinator: Mrs Sharon Stuart

Dux 2010

The 2010 HSC results were very pleasing, with most students performing beyond their expectations. Many have received university placement offers and some are already engaged in employment. The dux for 2010 was Ryan Jenkins (ATAR 98.5). Runner-up was Phillip Lo (ATAR 98.1). We congratulate both boys and all the students in the Class of 2010.

Website

This term we are launching our new Moodle-based website. This will enable parents to access a wide range of detailed information relating to school operation and student learning. Year group pages will provide information for parents relating to curriculum, assessment, events, student involvement, etc. A list of notes that have been distributed will be provided along with a link so the notes can be downloaded and printed, in case your child has misplaced one. There is also a parent section which will contain a wide range of support information. We hope that this initiative will improve communication between home and school and provide additional support for the difficult task of parenting teenagers.

To access the website, go to https://moodle.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au. Use your child's username and password to log on and then go to the area required from the menu. The site is still under development so please visit it from time to time to explore its breadth.

The Student Planner is still the most valuable tool for one-on-one communication with classroom teachers.

The public website address is: http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

Welcome Year 7 BBQ

The welcome BBQ for our Year 7 students and their families was held at the school on Monday evening. It was great to see so many parents take advantage of the opportunity to meet the teachers who will be working with their children this year.

Round 1 Enrolments

Round 1 will commence this term for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 2012 from our Catholic feeder schools. Applications will close on Friday 8 April and interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2. Open Day will be held on Saturday 5 March

from 10.00am until 1.00pm. Applications for students from non-feeder schools will close **Thursday 30 June**, with interviews being held in Term 3.

Swimming Carnival and Day In Lieu

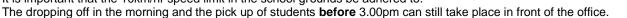
Please note that the College Swimming Carnival will be held at the City Pool from 2.00pm – 8.00pm on Thursday 24 February. The following day, Friday 25 February, will be a non-school day. The school will **not be open** on that day.

College Board

If any parent is interested in nominating for a place on the College Board, please contact the school by Tuesday 15 February.

Dropping Off & Picking Up Students

Those parents who pick up their children **after** school are asked to drive along the road to the back of the Hall and park on this road for the pick up. The car park becomes congested and dangerous if cars wait in the middle of the car park. It is important that the 10km/hr speed limit in the school grounds be adhered to.



Parents are asked to please NOT pick up students in the carpark or the bus bay after 3.00pm.

Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool can be accessed on Wednesdays between 12.30pm and 1.30pm via the bottom carpark. It can be found at the top of the stairs, to the left (facing Tribe Street). Please follow the signs.

Hours of School & Supervision

The playground will be supervised from 8.20am. After school, students will be supervised in the bus bay area until the last bus leaves.

Absentees

Government regulations require that schools document all student absences with reasons eg. illness, approved leave etc. Please provide the school with an explanation of your child's absence **within 7 days** by way of a letter upon their return or a phone call on the day of their absence. Follow up letters will be forwarded to parents/guardians seeking explanation if this has not been provided. It is very important that students attend Homeclass for roll marking or sign in via the office if they are late to school.

Students Late For School

The bell for the beginning of school goes at 8.40am. Students who arrive after this time are required to complete an entry in the late book in the office. Parents need to bring late students to the office and sign the book or else provide the student with a note. Letters will be posted home for unexplained lateness or absences.

Early Departure

Parents are required to sign for students who are leaving the school before the normal finishing time of 3.00pm. This also applies if the student is returning to school later in the day.

Pedestrian Entry and Exit

Students who walk to or from school must use either the Children's Crossing in Tribe Street or the designated section of Johnston Street at the end of the oval.



Student and Family Information Update Form

The Student and Family Information Update Form will be posted home to families mid term. Please complete and return it to the office.

Student Planners

All students have been issued with a 2011 Student Planner. These Planners contain important information about the school and expectations along with excellent support material to assist students plan and manage their learning. They are to be used for communication between home and the school and as a record of aspects of the student's academic program. Please check and sign each child's planner at least weekly and encourage them to use this resource effectively.

Illness at School

Students are reminded that when they fall ill at school, they are to inform their teacher and report to the office, where the sick bay is located. Office staff will assess students and contact parents if necessary. Students are asked **NOT** to phone their parents as this is the legal responsibility of the school.

Distribution of Newsletter

Newsletters are available on the McCarthy website (www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au) on Day 9 (every second Thursday) of the timetable. A paper copy of the Newsletter is available to those families who require it by contacting Debra Wade in the office. Alternatively, you can have the Newsletter emailed each fortnight. Please notify the office of your email address if you would like to utilise this service.

Change of Student Details

It is imperative that the office be advised about any change of detail from last year eg change in family situation, address, workplace, phone numbers – mobile and landline for home and work.

Medication

Please be aware the school office staff cannot administer pain medication.

The next newsletter will contain information regarding directions and priorities for the year. Best wishes to all families for 2011.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school year commenced for staff with the celebration of Mass at St Mary's Church. Father Gleeson spoke about the importance of all of the staff, in their various roles, to the work of the Church. He concluded the Mass with the comment that 'Jesus should be able to be found at McCarthy'. As RECs, we endeavour to make this possible through prayer, liturgies, the RE curriculum and by encouraging all staff to reflect Jesus in their actions and interactions with students and others.

We hope, in 2011, that many students will take the opportunity to be involved in the religious life of the school. We plan on forming a Youth Ministry Group which will involve students in Liturgies and Masses held during the year, and meetings to assist them to gain more knowledge of their faith. We will provide Twilight Retreats for senior students and we have booked professional performers to work with junior classes to initiate retreat activities. There will be an emphasis again on 'Service' and students will be encouraged to support Project Compassion during Lent and the Walkathon which will be held again to support Children's Mission. The St Agnes Conference of St Vincent de Paul will provide the opportunity for students to be active in their support of the needy in the community.

We look forward to helping students and staff to find Jesus in their school this year.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen - Religious Education Coordinators

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It is important as we begin the school year for 2011 to make it clear that McCarthy values and takes considerable pride in the school uniform. The requirements for both juniors and seniors are clearly outlined in the Student Planners and students are required to adhere to these requirements. Any breaches of uniform policy will be followed up and interviews may be required for persistent breaches. If it is not possible for your child to be in the correct uniform on a particular occasion, could you please provide a note for your child.

Mrs Sally Sparke - Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new students - to Year 7 and also:

Elizabeth Cavanagh, Matthew Grogan, Camille Hazell and Teagan Reilly (Year 8)

Tayla Clark, Emily Grant, Chloe Milgate, Courtney O'Connor and Hudson O'Sullivan (Year 9)

Joseph Bennett, Gemma Campbell, Brooke Cheetham, Rekaya Geddes, Isobel Hazell, Clare Hockings, Chloe Johnson, Anneke Pretorius, Steven Reilly, Sarah Simmonds, Olivia Stevenson and Leo Steyn (Year 10)

Brook Aston-Brien, Taylor Day and Melissa Hamilton (Year 11).

Welcome also to the families who are joining the McCarthy community. We look forward to working closely with you to nurture your child's progress and well being.

Staff Matters

Congratulations are extended to Mrs Lees and her husband on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby girl, Katrina Elizabeth.

Pastoral Care

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Mr Dan Mitchell to the Pastoral Care team in the position of Year 7 Coordinator.

Please keep us informed of any health, social, financial and/or family issues that may affect your child's learning or general well-being. Such information is treated with discretion and allows us to provide appropriate support when necessary. I also encourage you to contact us with any concerns you have regarding your child at McCarthy.

Please note that due to teaching and interview commitments, it is sometimes difficult to return calls promptly. For non-urgent matters, an email is an effective form of communication.

Mrs Julie McGregor juliemcg@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Pastoral Care Coordinator

Mr Dan Mitchell d.mitchell@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 7 Coordinator

Mrs Fiona O'Neill fiona@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 8 Coordinator

Mr Bernie Williams b.williams@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 9 Coordinator

Mr Luke Adams I.adams@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 10 Coordinator

Mrs Sharon Stuart s.stuart@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 11 Coordinator

Mrs Libby Molony libby@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 12 Coordinator

Mr Steve Mair s.mair@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Counsellor

Moodle

Over the next few weeks the Year Coordinators will begin posting their reports and upcoming dates on Moodle. I shall also be including articles and guidelines that may help with that most important and difficult job – parenting.

Vaccinations

The first of the 2011 vaccinations will take place on 7 March.

Year 7: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough); Hepatitis B; Human Papilloma Virus (HPV – Cervical Cancer – girls only)

Year 10: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Information packs will be sent home. Please read and carefully complete ALL required sections of the permission forms which are to be returned to Homeclass teachers.

Parenting Conference

A parenting conference will be held in Sydney on 24 and 25 February. Please contact me for details.

Theme for the Week

Each week we have a theme that is designed to assist the students in their development. "A Good Start" encouraged students in four areas:

Organisation: good organisation is an essential component of secondary students' academic success. All students have been issued with a 2011 Planner. We encourage you to regularly check and sign the planner and to use it as a form of communication with teachers. Students are also issued with a Term Calendar. This is an important tool in the management of time with study and completion of tasks.

Getting Along: meeting expectations, establishing good relationships with staff and other students.

Confidence: volunteering opinions and answers in class and seeking assistance when required.

Persistence: developing good work habits in class and at home, not giving up.

In Week 3 Homeclasses discussed goals – that they are necessary for success, give direction, must be challenging but achievable, should have time frames and need to be flexible.

Great Start

The majority of students appear to have begun the year in a very positive manner, setting goals to use new strategies, work hard and improve their academic standing. We look forward to a successful and happy year.

'Knowing your destination is half the journey' (Anon)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

This year promises to be exciting with some great challenges and opportunities. If you are a parent who feels they have something to offer, whether it is an idea, opinion, feedback or just want to meet other parents, we invite you to attend our meetings.

Wine and Cheese Night - Social Evening

McCarthy Association is holding a Wine and Cheese Night on 15 February in the Staffroom. This is a social evening only and we welcome new and old faces to come along. We will be having a small tour of the school to look at the things we have contributed and also be looking at the year ahead. More information is available by phoning Tracey Carrington on 6765 2927. RSVP is required for catering purposes.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 21 February at 7.00pm in the Staffroom. Supper will be provided. Agenda items include:

- · social activities for the year
- priorities for 2011

To keep up to date on topics covered at our monthly meetings please go to www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au and click on McCarthy Parents Association and follow the links to meetings.

CAREERS NEWS

This year I will be available in the Careers Room to see students and/or parents every Tuesday and Friday lunchtime. I will also be available at other times by arrangement.

Year 12

The Regional University Roadshow visited McCarthy this week and gave our Year 12 students interested in attending university, as well as those from other local schools, an insight into university life and courses.

Career Interviews: during Terms 1 and 2 I will be holding a career interview with each Year 12 student based on their responses to the Careers Survey they completed last week. This process has already begun with students who have been to see me to make an appointment.

Defence Force Careers Talk: students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who are interested in finding out more about joining the army, navy or airforce are invited to a talk at lunchtime on Thursday 17 February. Members of the armed forces will talk about ADFA, officer entry, general entry and opportunities to do apprenticeships and university courses through the defence force. Students may like to visit http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/ before the talk to get some information. This is a great website.

UNE Open Day: this will be held on Friday 6 May in Term 2 and I will be organising a bus to Armidale for this event.

Year 11

While most Year 11 students have settled in well to senior schooling, some are wondering if this is the right decision for them. For any student in this position, I encourage them to come to see me to discuss the many options open to them.

Mrs Susan Barrett - Careers Advisor

LIBRARY NEWS

Study Club

An initiative we are proud of at McCarthy is Study Club. The library remains open until 5.00pm on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons so that students can do homework in a quiet environment and use the library resources and computers to work on assessment tasks. Students who come are requested to sign in when they arrive and out when they leave. Study Club is supervised by staff on a volunteer basis and they can be asked for assistance if the student requires help.

This is not an internet cafe for browsing or playing games, nor is it afterschool care. Students are asked and expected to bring school work to do. Those that do not want to spend time on school related activities, or disrupt other students, will not be welcome at Study Club. This is an opportunity that allows students to focus on their learning and to help them by providing facilities and resources to assist them.

G2 will also be open and supervised from 7.45am – 8.30am on Monday and Friday mornings for those who want to do private work or study quietly before school.

Mrs Cheryl Gulliford and Mrs Susan Barrett - Teacher Librarians

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

We will be continuing the Instrumental Music Program following on from it's success in 2010.

All interested students from Years 7-12 are welcome to participate. There are 3 groups this year:

Concert Band (students from Years 7-12 who already play a band instrument) will rehearse Friday lunchtimes. Flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophones, trumpet, trombone, horn, baritone/euphonium, tuba, percussion.

Jazz Band (experienced players on trumpet, saxophone, trombone, drums, bass guitar and keyboard/piano - entry by audition/application) will rehearse Tuesday lunchtimes Week B.

Beginner/Junior Band for any student Years 7-11 who has no prior experience on a band instrument. (Instrument selection based on Instrumental Music Program Director's knowledge and experience to find the best fit for the student.) Friday mornings 8.15am. The school has some instruments available for hire.

If any students have McCarthy instruments that they borrowed in previous years and have not returned could they please do so this week. We will also accept any donations if people have any instruments that are sitting in cupboards unused.

There is a minimal fee for participation: \$50 – instrument deposit; \$20 – term instrument hire; \$40 – annual Band fee.

Any interested students should contact me this week.

Mrs Lisa Lane – Band Coordinator

EX - STUDENT NEWS

Jackie Hartley – who topped the HSC in 4 subjects in 1996, is a Policy and Research officer with the Australian Human Rights Commission, having also worked with the First Nations Summit. Jackie has donated to the school the book she has co-edited—*Realizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. She has degrees in Arts and Law from the University of NSW, a Master of Law from the University of Arizona and has taught History and Law at the University of NSW.

Blake Hallam – winner of major titles at the Australian Bushmen's Campdraft and Rodeo Association National Junior Finals. He was the top performer overall for the finals, winning the respective all round cowboy title.

Nick Knight – Domino's Franchisee, joined with other franchisees to raise money for the Queensland Flood appeal – donating \$1 for every pizza sold.

Simon Norvill and Adam Jones - in the victorious Tamworth cricket team at the SCG for the Country Cup Final.

Hailinn Diola - Award recipient at the Tamworth Regional Council Sports Awards.

Kylie Gilles (nee Bargwanna) - winner of \$5000 in an Australia wide Business Mentor Program.

Erin Chillingworth - Coordinator of the Tamworth City Council Country Music Queen contest.

Libby Campbell, Elsie Barnes, Kaia McDonald, Danica Isaac, Rebecca Ward and Elizabeth Utting - contestants in the Country Music Queen quest.

Nick Kay – to leave for the US to play basketball in Texas with the Newington College team. His goal is to play with a US College next year.

Arley Black and Blake Saban - in the Australian Songwriters Association showcase concert during Country Music.

Lisa Hetherington – completed her Bachelor of Arts and Commerce degree at UNE, now Medicare office worker and Rural Fire Service and Blue Angel Foundation volunteer.

SPORT

NSWCCC Individual Selection Trials Dates

Students are required to collect nomination forms and return them to the office. Closing dates are approximately 3 weeks prior to the event. These will be announced in the Daily Notices at school. Students are reminded to check these closing dates in Homeclass.

Dates

Friday 4 March Open Girls CCC Cricket

Monday 7 March CCC Tennis Selections at Wollongong

Tuesday 8 March Triathlon at Penrith

Friday 11 March Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Gunnedah

Monday 14 March CCC Golf at Camden Lakeside

Tuesday 15 March CCC Open Boys Hockey at Newcastle

Friday 18 March Diocesan Under 15 Rugby League Selection Trials at Armidale

Monday 21 March CCC Girls Hockey at Wyong

Thursday 24 March Western CCC Soccer Trials Boys & Girls at Bathurst Friday 25 March Diocesan Under 16 Rugby Union at Tamworth CCC Girls Netball Selection Trials at Sydney

Monday 4 April CCC Basketball at Penrith

NSWCCC Hockey Championships

On Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May, McCarthy Catholic College will be hosting the NSWCCC Hockey Championships.

If there are any parents wishing to become involved in the organising committee, would you please contact Mr Ian McKenzie at school before 4 March.

Wednesday Night Basketball

Welcome back to a new year of McCarthy basketball. Basketball has a very proud and long standing tradition at McCarthy and we are looking forward to seeing old players return and new players starting. Teams are nominated in the Years 7/8 and 9/10 divisions for both girls and boys. Games are played on Wednesday evenings at various times from 4:30pm.

Placement in teams is made by the committee as a group, abiding by Club by-laws. McCarthy Catholic College's Basketball representation in the local competition is traditionally very strong with 14 teams nominated last year. Players are asked to remember that they have nominated to participate in a team sport and therefore to please ensure that they are committed to attending games and supporting team mates every week.

Players must wear full uniform. This includes:

MCC shorts – available from Struddy's Sportsworld (Navy) \$25.00

MCC singlets in team colours – these will be supplied to players once they have paid their \$15.00 Club Fee to the Bookroom. This payment covers the cost of team nominations and singlet hire.

Mr Luke Adams

Campdraft and Rodeo National Junior Finals

Congratulations to Courtney Hallam, winner of a major title at the Australian Bushmen's Campdraft and Rodeo Association National Junior Finals. She was the top performer overall for the finals, winning the respective all round cowgirl title.

Kookaburra Cup

Congratulations to Matthew Dunn on his recent success in the Kookaburra Cup (Under 14s Country Championships) at Bowral. Matt played the final on Don Bradman Oval last month where he took 2 wickets. He now goes on to play the winner of the city division at the Sydney Cricket Ground this weekend. We wish him well.

International Rimfire Benchrest - Pacific Regional Championships

At the end of last year, Mitchell Tallar represented Australia in New Zealand at the International Rimfire Benchrest (Shooting) Pacific Regional Championships. He won a silver medal in the teams event, narrowly missing gold by 1 point. He placed 4th in the individual event, again missing the bronze medal by 1 point.

Netball 2011

Teams are being organised once again for the girls who wish to play netball for McCarthy on Saturdays. This is a commitment to play, train and umpire, so students and parents must be fully aware of their obligations to the team.

We are always looking for coaches. If any parents are interested please make it known on the team sheet. We have made the decision this year that only Year 12 students and/or parents/guardians may coach a team. All teams must have adult supervision. Students have been asked to collect a series of notes: team nomination form, individual nomination form, netball uniform order form and a newsletter. Meetings have been organised and it is the students' responsibility to be organised and attend all meetings. If there are students who do not have a team, they can see Mrs Woolaston or Mrs Burt for assistance.

The new uniform is available to order and students can try on for sizing if they see Mrs Burt. All students who play netball for McCarthy have to be dressed in the new uniform at the start of this season.

Mrs Andra Milne is the president of MCC Netball and continues to work tirelessly for our netballers. Kate Woolaston and Colleen O'Meagher are the McCarthy liaisons for the teams and Jane Burt for uniforms and jumpers. We are willing to help in any way we can and any help from parents on Saturdays would be appreciated. We always field a number of teams but struggle to find coaches, so any time that you can give would be gratefully received.

We look forward to another wonderful season.

Mrs Jane Burt

Country Music Camping

Another year is over and as an association we have made a huge contribution towards fundraising this year from the 10 day event. For those people who are new to the school, over the Country Music Festival we allocate rooms to visitors who book to stay at the school and have the use of the facilities. Many people were involved this year in making the event such a success. We would like to thank the Dehm family for co-coordinating the event, with the wonderful cleaning support of Kate Rayment, Tania Roberts, Tracey Carrington, Donna and Ned Forrest, Michael Herden, Bernard Davies, Vicki and Georgia Cooper, Lauren Christakos, Gillian Dorrstein and family and Joan and Greg Sullivan, who all discovered a new perspective on how the school looks when wearing gloves.

Did you know cleaning burns more calories than going for a run, so give it a try and remember to put your name down to assist in 2012.





