

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6)

Solitude begins with a time and a place for God, and God alone. If we really believe not only that God exists but that He is actively present in our lives – healing, teaching, guiding – we need to set aside a time and space to give Him our undivided attention. (Henri JM Nouwen)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Enrolments 2012 and Open Day 2011

The enrolment process for the 2012 student intake has begun. The re-vamped Enrolment Application Package will be distributed through the Catholic feeder Primary schools (St Nicholas', St Edward's, St Joseph's West Tamworth and Quirindi, and St Michael's Manilla) and will also be available from the school office for families whose children do not currently attend one of these schools. Open Day will be held on Saturday 5 March between 10.00am and 1.00pm. All families are invited to attend.

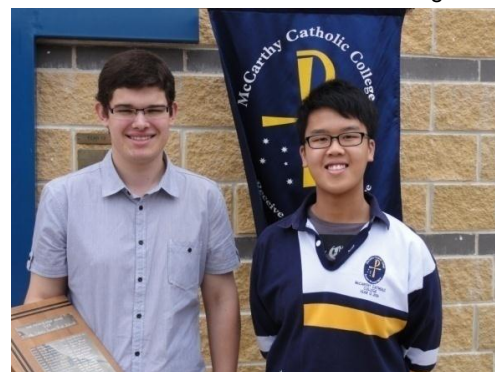
Annual Priorities

Each year McCarthy Catholic College implements an Annual Development Plan based on priorities determined from feedback and internal analysis and in line with the long-term College Strategic Management Plan. The following is a summary of the 2011 educational priorities:

- bringing students to better know God, especially through prayer and liturgy
- targeted literacy and numeracy programs and cross-curriculum literacy and numeracy support
- establishing and maintaining high expectations
- thorough data analysis and programming interventions for improved outcomes
- building teacher expertise and leadership
- parent partnership – improving communication and support through use of Student Planners and the Moodle-based website as educational and communication tools and through parent discussion sessions at Association meetings
- technology hardware and infrastructure development (DER)
- curriculum management – implementation of electronic management system.

Dux Award

The 2010 dux and runner-up were presented with awards at our school assembly last week. Ryan Jenkins (ATAR 98.5) was presented with the Sister Patricia Rowe medal which is awarded to the student who gains the highest ATAR, or equivalent, in the Higher School Certificate. Phillip Lo was presented with the Runner-up award after finishing with an ATAR of 98.1. Both boys addressed the assembly with distinction and provided very sound advice to the student body. I hope their wise words provide the impetus for improved application and renewed focus for many students.



Ryan Jenkins and Phillip Lo

Student Success

The school community congratulates Alice Lyden on her selection in the NSW State U14 Water Polo team. Her selection follows participation in the recent championships held here in Tamworth and is an outstanding achievement.

House Captains

Congratulations to the following students on their election as House Captains for 2011:

Edmund Rice: Brad Jeffriess, Ashley Ninness, Matthew Ellison, Adrianna Rindo, Nathan Paff, Morgan Lea.
 Dominic: Nathan Leehy, Shannan Purdy, George Rixon, Tayla Phillis, Shanin Phillis, Anna Camilleri.
 Chisholm: Morgan Englert, Daniel Carr, Ollie Knight, Shannen Lyon, Elizabeth Doherty, Luke Paterson.
 MacKillop: Mark Sfeir, Phoebe George, Pete McGuirk, Kathleen Ferguson, Luke Fulwood, Jessica Sfeir.

Wine and Cheese Night

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Wine and Cheese Night last Tuesday. It was a pleasure to mingle, chat and tour the school with parents and Association members. I look forward to a continuing partnership that will support students and their families over the year and into the future. The next Association meeting will be on Monday 14 March at 7.00pm in the staff room.

Swimming Carnival

Staff and students have been looking forward to the annual school swimming carnival today at the City Pool. An extensive report on the day will be available in the next newsletter. The carnival concludes at 7.30pm. It would be appreciated if parents could please arrange to have their child/ren collected at that time.

Pupil-free Day

Please note that tomorrow (Friday 25 February) is a non-school day. There will be no supervision available at the school on the day.

Afternoon Pick-up

There seem to be some difficulties with afternoon pick-up behind the Hall. We are currently working on a solution to the congestion in the area and ask that you please assist by not parking on the roadway or in the turning area. We hope to have the situation rectified quickly. Please do not use the front of the Administration block as a pick-up area immediately after 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 one 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.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Whole School Mass**

The whole school will attend Mass on Ash Wednesday 9 March across the four churches in Tamworth, commencing at 11.30am. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us for this Mass. Students will attend in the following House groups: MacKillop - Mary Help of Christians South Tamworth, Edmund Rice - St Patricks' West Tamworth, Dominic - St Nicholas' East Tamworth, and Chisholm - St Marys' North Tamworth.

Shrove Tuesday

On the day before Ash Wednesday St Vinnies members will sell pancakes from the canteen at recess. Proceeds will go to Project Compassion.

Lenten Group

A Lenten Group will be held in the Meeting Room at McCarthy Catholic College each Wednesday evening between 7.00pm-8.30pm commencing on Ash Wednesday. Staff, students and parents are most welcome to join this group which will run for six weeks.

First Friday Mass

Our students have continued to support First Friday Mass at St Nicholas Church in large numbers. Students will be offered the opportunity to return to school for a light breakfast after Mass on these days. The next First Friday will be at 7.00am on March 4.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**Support Programs**

We work very hard to support all students at McCarthy to be positive contributors to the school community. To this end, individualised Support Plans are being organised to help targeted students make good choices and move towards realising their individual potentials. This process recognises the pivotal importance of the partnership between school and home in supporting the students in our care.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE**Welcome**

We welcome Darrell O'Bryan to Year 7. We also welcome Angela Vering (Year 8) and her family to the McCarthy community.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Holly and Sophie McNamara and family following the death of their grandfather.

Safety Issues

We have a student with an allergy to peanuts. Your assistance in not sending nut products to school would be appreciated.

Please note that the use of aerosol spray cans is prohibited at school as an Occupational Health and Safety practice. Cans will be confiscated and returned on Friday 3.00pm.

Courses for Parents

The Tamworth Family Relationship Centre will be presenting a free "Explosive Child" and "Surviving Your Adolescents" program in Tamworth during March. Centacare New England North West will be conducting a free 2 day Youth Mental Health First Aid course in Tamworth on the Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 April.

Please see the parenting page in Moodle for details of these courses.

Vaccinations

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

Year 7: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough); 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. All Year 7 and Year 10 students are to wear sports uniform on the day. Please ensure your child has breakfast.

Theme for the Week

During Week 3 we considered our **Code of Conduct**. It promotes the use of Gospel Values in all situations. CARE, COURTESY, RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY are expected by all members of the McCarthy Community at all times. 'Care' was the theme for Week 4 Students were encouraged to think of ways that they could be more caring. It would be wonderful if families also considered this challenge.

"No one who desires to become good will become good without doing good things" - Aristotle

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students often ask "How do I set a study timetable?" These two steps may assist.

Step 1 – Identify Commitments

List all the following activities on a weekly planner:

Regular weekly activities (Sports training, sporting fixtures, work, music lessons, Mass etc).

Family evening meals.

Travel to and from school, training etc.

Specific TV shows students always watch - consider recording these for viewing in free time.

Any other items that are part of their weekly schedule.

Step 2 – Set a Schedule

Students can estimate the time they take for each activity and write it down.

Write homework and study sessions in their planner. Make sure they schedule homework and study at times when they know they are at their best. Ensure they get adequate sleep.

Make sure they allow enough time for recreation and relaxation.

If students find there is not enough time for study, they need to review their commitments, particularly if in Years 11 or 12. Eg: Am I working too many shifts at work, resulting in me not having time for study, being tired at school and not performing at my best?

Remember their study schedule should be achievable and sustainable on a long term basis.

Homework is not study! Study is revision and the consolidation of the content of the course.

Ms Denise McHugh – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Wine and Cheese Night

McCarthy Association held its Wine and Cheese night on Tuesday 15 February in the staff room. We were overwhelmed with the interest shown by new parents to the school and wish to thank those parents who attended and also those that have contacted us, for their enthusiasm and interest in being involved in one way or another. On the night there was good food, good conversation and good company. What a great start to the year.



Introducing 'Talkback' Sessions from May 2011

The Association is pleased to introduce 'Talkback' sessions in 2011. Run by our Principal, Kate Rayment, these 15 minute sessions will be held at each meeting and will address common questions from parents. We have produced a calendar of meetings so that parents can identify which sessions are of interest to them. Watch the newsletter for upcoming topics. Please note these will not start until our May meeting.

Items for Discussion at Last Meeting

Our first meeting for the year was held on 21 February where we heard about the very successful Country Music Accommodation fundraiser, Contiki People to People Homestay billeting program coming up in June, social events and our challenges for the coming year.

Directions for 2011

High on the agenda for 2011 are parent partnerships, parent information and social events for whole of school community. This of course is in addition to our normal yearly activities. It promises to be an exciting and challenging year ahead.

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

CAREERS NEWS

Guest Speakers

It was pleasing to see the number of students attending presentations last week about careers in the Defence Force and in the area of hospitality management and event management. Two more events are being planned for those interested in careers in health and in various other areas. Watch this space. Year 12 students should check their emails for Careers Alert messages.

Work Experience

I have been talking to a number of Year 10 students about the possibility participating in work experience. Information on our work experience policy can be found on the Careers Page of the school website at:

<http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers> and go to the Work Experience link.

Senior Success Program

Shortly Year 11 students will be receiving a letter inviting them and their parents to join the *Senior Success* program. As a parent, teacher and Careers Adviser I strongly encourage students and parents to participate in this worthwhile program.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

SHOW TEAM

The McCarthy Show Team is off to a great start this year with the donation of a Junior Simmental Bull "Delelvin Fortune", from Robert and Amanda Maxwell, giving students the opportunity to compete in Stud Classes this year. "Fortune" is a wonderful addition to the school's Simmental Stud, bringing excellent genetics from the "Delelvin" and "Goonoo Creek" Simmental herds. The Show Team is very appreciative of this very generous donation and would like to thank Mr Maxwell on behalf of McCarthy.

The year has begun with an incredible amount of interest from students wishing to take up the opportunity to join the McCarthy Show Team. The volume of applications for the available places in the team has been overwhelming and bodes well for another strong year on the show circuit and in the community. The team will be led by a strong contingent of continuing students who are excited about mentoring the newer members in the ins and outs of preparing and showing cattle. New students have been allocated as many places as possible but the unprecedented level of interest has necessitated the creation of a waiting list for this program, with the goal of gradually adding more students to the team over the year as the first intake of students improves their skills. The MCC show team looks forward to commencing afternoon cattle preparation with Tuesday and Thursday sessions starting in Week 5 for beginning students.

Ms Leanne Sjollega – Show team Coordinator

SPORT

All Schools Triathlon

The following students will compete in the All Schools Triathlon Championship at Penrith on 8 and 9 March: Ellie Camilleri, Sophie Heaney, Bronte Ellicott and Tom Kelly. We wish them well.

NSW CCC Girls Cricket

Bronte Pennefather and Rhiannon Graham will travel to Sydney to compete at the Sydney Cricket Ground for NSWCCC Cricket selection trials on 4 March. Good luck girls.

NSWCCC U15 Rugby League Camp

We wish Lachlan Etheridge every success when he attends the Rugby League Camp at Narrabeen on 5 and 6 March.