

# Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

## Prayer

*God made everything come out right;  
He puts victims back on their feet...  
As high as heaven is over the earth,  
So strong is his love to those who fear him.  
And as far as sunrise is from sunset,  
he has separated us from our sins (Psalm 103:6, 11-12)  
Lord ...give me only your love and Your grace.  
With this I am rich enough and I have no more to ask.  
Ignatius Loyola*

## PRINCIPAL MATTERS

### Catholic Schools Week/Enrolments 2012

This week is Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is "Take the learning journey with us - a learning adventure, a journey of faith". It is a time to celebrate our mission as a Catholic school in our community.

### Enrolment 2012

Please note that Round 1 applications for enrolment into Year 7 2012 have now closed. Round 2 applications close on 30 June. Round 1 interviews will commence in Week 5.

### Term 1 Report/Planning

A report of activities from Term 1 is available on the college Moodle website under the "Parents" tag. (<https://www.moodle.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au>)

### Term 2

During Term 2 we will be continuing to develop our literacy and numeracy programs, curriculum management, program differentiation and ICT improvements. This term students in Years 7 and 9 will sit the annual NAPLAN tests and Half-Yearly Examinations will be held for all students in Year 7 – 11. Parent/Teacher interviews will be conducted and reports distributed late in the term. Please check the calendar for dates.

### Staff

Mrs Gillian Downes will commence part-time employment at the school next week, working with literacy programs and in-class support.

We are currently hosting four student teachers during their practicums. We wish them all the best with their studies and hope the experience at McCarthy prepares them well for their careers.

### Canteen

The school canteen has experienced some growth in demand. Consequently, there is a need for more helpers to assist with food preparation and serving. Please contact Raelee Balderston or myself if you are available to offer even a small amount of time to support the school in this way.

### Winter Uniform

All students should be in full winter uniform from the beginning of Week 3 (9 May). There have been some difficulties accessing junior girls' pinafores. Summer uniforms may be worn by those waiting for uniforms to arrive. Please refer to the Student Planners or the college website for details or contact the office if you need clarification of any uniform items. Please note that the jerseys that form part of the winter uniform are available from Tuff N Tidy.

### Congratulations

The school community congratulates Isaac Searant (Year 10) on winning the gold medal in the 16 year boys section of the NSWCCC Diving Championships at Homebush on Monday with a score of 235.60.

*Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Term 2 Whole School Mass

All students and staff will attend Mass on 24 June this term. Relatives and friends are most welcome to join us at this Mass.

### Caritas

A cheque for \$6800.00 was presented to Caritas as a result of our Project Compassion fundraising efforts during Lent. Thank you to all who contributed in any way. This significant sum will enable Caritas to continue to support people in places of need including in Japanese disaster areas.

<b>Diary Dates</b>	
5 May:	Year 12 Geography Excursion
6 May:	Diocesan Cross Country, Tennis – Moree
6 May:	UNE Open Day
10 May:	NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9)
11 May:	NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9)
12 May:	NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9)
12 May:	Indigenous Education Seminar
17 May:	Association Meeting
18 May:	Careers Expo
18 May:	Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7pm
20 May:	School Band to Gunnedah
20 May:	Diocesan Soccer Gala Day
23 May:	Years 7 & 11 Half-Yearly Exams
24 May:	ICAS Computer Skills Test
24 May:	Board Meeting

**St Vinnies**

The main fundraising effort this term will be to support the Winter Appeal. We ask families to look to see if they have any excess warm clothing or blankets and if so to bring them into the school and they will be collected by St Vincent de Paul employees.

**Year 12 Twilight Retreat**

We have postponed this retreat for Year 12 students due to the large numbers making their debut. We hope to hold it on Tuesday 31 May.

*Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators*

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

At the ANZAC day ceremonies, several very positive comments were made to me about our uniform. The uniform, worn well, is a source of pride and identity for McCarthy Catholic College. It is with this in mind that I remind students of a few rules that help to maintain the standard of which we are so proud:

Visible body piercing is NOT permitted

Jewellery - one small plain sleeper or stud per ear, one plain metallic bangle, one plain ring, and a single fine chain.

Natural hair colours and appropriate adornments in school colours only.

No make-up at all for junior girls. Senior girls are permitted to wear MINIMAL day makeup. No liquid eyeliner.

School shoes are black, hard leather lace ups. ONLY senior girls are permitted to wear buckle Doc Martins.

Sport shoes are to be predominately white supportive joggers. NO canvas or skate shoes.

Please ensure all uniform items (especially jumpers) are marked with students' name.

*Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal*

**PASTORAL CARE****Welcome Back**

Welcome back to Mrs McGregor after her time away from McCarthy.

**Condolences**

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Sarah Croake, Emilia and William Wright, and Kirsten and Brianna Pearson on the death of their grandfathers recently.

**Vaccinations**

The second round of vaccinations will be held at school on Monday 16 May for Year 7. Boys and girls will receive the first of two Hepatitis B vaccinations and girls will receive the second HPV vaccination. dTpa vaccinations will also be available for Year 10 students who missed the first opportunity. Only students with signed completed forms can be vaccinated. Please ensure that all Year 7 students are wearing sports uniform and have had breakfast on Monday 16 May.

**Head Lice**

There have been reports of outbreaks of head lice amongst the student population at school. Parents/guardians are asked to check their children's hair and treat as required every few days.

**Elevate Education**

This week Year 11 and 12 students attended study skills seminars presented by a Sydney based company, *Elevate Education*. Year 11 students focussed on time management techniques and general study skill advice, while Year 12 students focussed on 'Memory Mnemonics' and 'Ace Your Exams'. Further information for students and parents, including free downloads, are available from [www.elevateeducation.com](http://www.elevateeducation.com). Students who have not already paid the \$10.00 for the seminars need to finalise this payment to the office.

**Peer Mediators**

Twenty-four Year 11 students received their Peer Mediator badges at assembly last week, following their involvement in the Peer Mediation Program. Our peer mediators for 2011 are: Caitlin Baxter, Claudia Bruno, Josephine Cannon, Will Connell, Sarah Haywood, Stacey Hill, Melanie Jones, Stephanie Lingard-Hughes, Shannen Lyon, Kieran MacRae, Lachlan Maloney, Ellena Manoe, Emily Murray, Nicolette Myers, Zoe O'Sullivan, Shae Parsons, Adrianno RIndo, Ellie Stanley, James Tarte, Daniel Taylor, Kayla Urquhart-Smith, Kayla Vandestelt, Lesley Wong and Emilia Wright.

We look forward to their involvement in supporting younger students in the areas of positive friendships, general school life and service.

**Theme for the Week**

Term 2 is always a very busy term, with a wide range of academic, cultural and sporting pursuits taking place. An appropriate theme for the first week back was *Opportunity*. This week students have been asked to consider their attitude towards their pursuits, with the aim of developing a positive attitude to all endeavours. Catholic Education has also been a focus throughout 'Catholic Schools Week'.

*Mrs Sharon Stuart – Acting Pastoral Care Coordinator*

**TEACHING AND LEARNING****NAPLAN 2011**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, students will undertake the 2011 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children.

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Students with a disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

### Test Schedule for Year 7

Tuesday 10 May: Language Conventions and Writing  
 Wednesday 11 May : Reading  
 Thursday 12 May: Numeracy  
 Friday 13 May: catch-up day

### Test Schedule for Year 9

Tuesday 10 May: Language Conventions and Writing  
 Wednesday 11 May: Reading  
 Thursday 12 May: Numeracy  
 Friday 13 May: catch-up day

If Year 7 or 9 students are sick on the test days parents need to phone the school early to inform of the students' absence from the NAPLAN test. There will be a catch-up day on Friday for those students who, due to illness or misadventure, were unable to complete the tests on the assigned day. All efforts need to be made to ensure students are at school for the tests on the 10, 11 and 12 May.

NAPLAN practice will take place during English and Maths classes. Students and parents are also encouraged to refer to the school Moodle website for practice material.

### Year 12

Year 12 students have received their HSC PIN and are encouraged to log on to the BOS site to access their personal HSC Timetable. I have kept a copy of PINs in the safe in the school office in case students mislay or lose their PIN. Students can see me if they are having difficulties.

Students should by this stage have an established study pattern and be consistently revising work covered in class. Study is the active revision of work already covered and does not include homework. 'How do I study?' is a question often asked. Study means: doing exercises again and again, reading over more difficult concepts several times, reading ahead in text books, summarising notes or the text, doing extra questions, drawing concept maps and practising responses.

Remember: it is never too late to get into a good study routine.

I am available to assist any student who would like assistance developing a study timetable.

*Mrs Denise McHugh – Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

### CAREERS NEWS

In the first few weeks of Term 2:

- some Year 12 students will have attended the UNE Open Day
- Year 10,11 and 12 students will attend the Careers Expo at TRECC (cost \$2)
- Year 10 students will have received their Job Guide and had several Careers lessons.

Watch this space for more information on upcoming guest speakers, excursions, parent information evenings etc.

*Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor* [careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)

### CANTEEN

Our Canteen is in urgent need of assistance by volunteers. Mums, dads, grandparents, ex-students and friends are invited to join our team. The commitment is for one day every four weeks from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

As the weather is getting cooler, we will be introducing our winter menu in Week 3. Pies and sausage rolls are available now. We look forward to offering students homemade soups and hot dishes.

### PARENT INFORMATION

The Family Fund Appeal Pie Drive Fundraiser note was sent home last week. Orders and money are due back to school on Friday 13 May. Collection is on Friday 20 May from the foyer of the school hall. Spare order forms are available from the school office.

The next general meeting will take place in the Staff Room, 7.00pm on Tuesday 17 May 2011.

All are welcome to attend.

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



### EX-STUDENT NEWS

Adam Perfrement has completed his Bachelor of Environmental Science at UNE and his Diploma in Agriculture at the Rural Skills Centre in Armidale. He is now a Technical Officer on the Soil Programme at the Department of Industry and Investment in Tamworth.

## SPORT

**Bill Turner Cup Soccer – Boys**

Recently McCarthy Catholic College competed in the Bill Turner Cup Knockout Competition. This is an under 15 boys' competition and is open to all secondary schools state-wide. McCarthy played a home game against Tamworth High under very warm conditions. The weather took its toll on all players but the home ground advantage failed to assist McCarthy and we were defeated 4-1 against a very determined Tamworth High team. The score line does not reflect the actual game as McCarthy dominated second half possession but was unable to score on many occasions. Mention must be made of Matt Dunn who was invaluable for McCarthy in defence. The entire team is commended on delivering a one hundred percent effort in the game and for outstanding behaviour before, during and after the match.

A big thank you to Mr Michael Herden and Mr Ned Forest for preparing the oval for us and to Mr Bernie Williams for helping organise and train the team.

*Mr Ronny Rindo*

**THE 2012 NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM PROGRAM**

The 2012 twelve day NYSF Program enables participants – students about to start their final year of high school – to “test drive” and make informed decisions about courses and careers in science. Participants gain an insider’s view of campus life and how university study connects with careers. Workshops and field trips provide hands-on experience in real projects with top research scientists and engineers from industry and major research institutions.

Above all, the students build friendship links and networks that will continue through their studies and far into their later professional and personal lives!

Two sessions run at the Australian National University in Canberra, and a third at the University of WA and Curtin University in Perth. Each offers 144 places to students drawn from all parts of the country – plus a small number of International students from New Zealand, Canada and Europe.

Each applicant has opportunity to indicate which of the three sessions they would prefer to attend - though places on each are limited. Whichever session students attend, they are guaranteed a comparably rich experience of the widest arrays of science and engineering in the country.

Through the rest of 2012, participants are offered further seminars in other cities– plus the chance to seek a place on one of eight International youth science programs.

This and other information, [including the 2012 NYSF Program Guide and Application Forms], is available online at the website: <http://www.nysf.edu.au/applying>

Applications for January 2012 will close on 31 May 2011.

## KEYS 2 DRIVE... helping parents teach their Learner driver

As a parent you may be a good driver; but being able to teach your Learner is not an easy task.

A recent national survey of more than 1,250 parents of Learner drivers found that almost half (45.5%) were nervous or apprehensive when they began teaching their teen how to drive.

*keys2drive* is a federally funded program that has been developed by the Australian Automobile Association which aims to take the drama out of learning to drive. It helps parents to prepare for their role as a supervising driver and to ensure that any time spent in the car with their Learner is successful and effective.

*keys2drive* is a **free** lesson (involving theory and on-road) delivered by an accredited professional driving instructor to any Learner who is accompanied by their supervising driver – most often a parent.

This program, the single largest Learner driver safety program undertaken in Australia, represents a unique and valuable experience for parents and their Learner drivers.

To register for a free lesson or to learn more, visit [www.keys2drive.com.au](http://www.keys2drive.com.au)



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