

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up,

He had His eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living,

part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.

Ephesians 1:11-12

The patterns of our days are always changing....rearranging...

and each design for living is unique...graced with its own special beauty.

Diary Dates

20 May:	School Band to Gunnedah
20 May:	Diocesan Soccer Gala Day
20 May:	Pie Orders Collection from Hall
23 May:	Years 7 & 11 Half-Yearly Exams
23 May:	Year 12 Hospitality Work Placement
24 May:	ICAS Computer Skills Test
24 May:	Board Meeting
26 May:	CCC Hockey Championships – Tamworth
27 May:	St Nicholas' Debutante Ball
30 May:	Year 8 – 10 Exams
31 May:	Year 12 Twilight Retreat
1 June:	Year 7 Excursion

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Term 1 Report

Due to difficulties being experienced with internet speed at the moment, there have been some delays in meeting targets for the upload of information to the website. The Term 1 Report is now available on the Moodle site under the 'Parents' banner.

NAPLAN

Last week students in Years 7 and 9 completed the 2011 NAPLAN assessment. The data that is reported to students, parents and the school will assist us to work together to improve specific areas of literacy and numeracy for individuals and their cohorts. It will be combined with other information and used to inform our planning for 2012 and beyond, in terms of literacy and numeracy interventions and program adjustments to meet targeted outcomes. It is one of many tools available to assist us in measuring student performance; it is not an effective measure of a child's total academic standing, or their success at school.

Positive Schools

As a school, we have been gradually building intellectual, human and physical resources that effectively support the long-term well-being of members of our school community. Last week I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to attend a national Positive Schools conference which addressed student mental health and well-being. Keynote speakers included internationally renowned psychologists and authors: Michael Carr-Gregg, Steve Biddulph and Dr John Irvine. I attended a range of workshops that addressed issues from cyber-safety to the philosophical foundations of positive psychology. Saturday's program was designed for parents and I am pleased to be able to share with our families some of the insights and resources presented in future newsletters, during 'talk back' sessions at our Association meetings, and on our Moodle website.

Winter Uniform

All students should be in full winter uniform from the beginning of Week 3 (9 May). Please refer to the Student Planners or the college website for details or contact the office if you need clarification regarding any uniform items. Ties are available for sale from the office for \$20.00 each. Please note that the jerseys that form part of the sports uniform are now available from Tuff N Tidy.

Canteen

This is a repeat request for assistance in the canteen. Increased demand has prompted 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. We are grateful for the support being given by parents, students and staff during busy times.

Absenteeism

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 (after 8.40am).

Pie Drive

Thank you to the families who supported the Family Support Group's Pie Drive fundraiser. Pie orders can be collected from the front foyer of the Hall on Friday 20 May (tomorrow).

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.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 7 – 10 Assessments

All RE classes from Years 7 to 10 will have assessment tasks in the coming weeks. These tasks are the second in their Assessment Schedule. There are no examinations in RE and final marks for Religious Education come from an accumulation of assessment marks throughout the year.

Whole School Mass

The next Whole School Mass will be held on 24 June.

RE Survey

The RE Department recently surveyed all students at McCarthy Catholic College with the aim to collect data which might help us meet the needs of our students. Included in this survey were questions which asked students to indicate their level of knowledge on various religious topics. We hope the responses to these questions will enable us to assist students to better understand the Christian faith.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Thank You

Many thanks to Mrs Sharon Stuart for looking after Pastoral Care so ably during my absence.

Welcome

We welcome Deklan Dixon and Nicholas Ryan (Year 7), Taylor Ambrose (Year 8), Olivia Paul (Year 9), Mia Dixon and Alexandra Nielsen (Year 10) and their families to the McCarthy community.

Vaccinations

Please note a change in date for Year 7 vaccinations to Monday 30 May. Hepatitis B forms must be completed and returned to the office. Year 7 students are to wear sports uniform on 30 May.

Theme for the Week

During Week 4 we focused on 'Learning'. Students are reminded that this is an active process for which they are responsible. They were encouraged to think about different ways of learning and were issued with an orange sheet with tips for improving learning and a gold sheet on different methods / intelligences used for learning.

What we have to learn to do, we learn by doing. Aristotle (384-322 BC)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Recently students in Years 10-12 had the opportunity to attend a lunchtime career talk, a breakfast conducted by a university college, and the Careers Expo at the TRECC. It is time for students to start seriously considering their career options and what to do when they leave school, whether it is the end of 2011 or in the future.

Matters to consider include:

- what do I want to do when I leave school - study, work, both?
- if I am undecided, have I spoken to Mrs Barrett?
- do I need the HSC to do what I want?
- what subjects do I need to do in the HSC to follow my chosen path?
- will I study at TAFE, a private college or university?
- will I take a gap year?

Year 10 students have received a copy of the 2011 Job Guide, the Year 10 Careers Booklet and have had two careers lessons. I suggest parents look at both of these and discuss options with their son/daughter. Year 12 students are gradually being interviewed as to their plans and given advice and information to assist them.

Year 12 students will also have the opportunity this term to gain their RSA and RCG qualifications in a course being conducted in Week 6. Applications for some university scholarships will open later this term, with details in CareersAlert emails. Gap year options are currently open for students who want to work overseas or join the Defence Force Gap Year. For more information, please visit: <http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/> and click on GAP Year Options.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

MATHEMATICS

On Friday May 13, eight of our Year 8 students attended the Year 8 Mathematics Day at the University of New England. These capable mathematicians had to think mathematically and work cooperatively to solve and work through a variety of activities. This is an annual event and a wonderful experience for our students. Thank you to Mr Geoff Denton and Mr Ronny Rindo for supervising the students on the day and thank you to these students for taking up this opportunity to extend themselves and for representing our school: Paul Murphy, Connor Wieland, Nathan Climpson, Chloe Hope, Tess O'Connor, Lauren MacRae, Georgia King and Bridget Galvin.

Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

The Family Fund Appeal Pie Drive orders must be collected at school on Friday 20 May from the front foyer of the Hall.



The next general meeting will take place in the Staff Room, 7.00pm on Tuesday 21 June 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, click on McCarthy Parents Association and follow the links to meetings.

SPORT

All Schools Diving

We congratulate Isaac Searant on his fifth placing in the 16 years 1 metre springboard event at the All Schools Diving Championships at Homebush last Monday. This is a wonderful effort considering Isaac only started diving a few months ago.

National Rimfire Championships

Congratulations to Mitchell Tallar on his success at the SSAA National Rimfire Championships in Brisbane recently. Mitchell set three new national records for the 3 Target, 6 Target and 50 metre Custom class.

Diocesan Touch Trials

Fourteen students attended the Diocesan Touch selection trials in Inverell. Open boys and girls teams played four games each. From those games, Isabel Hazell and Kathleen Ferguson gained selection and Luke Patterson was named as a shadow player. The Under 15 girls' team played six games throughout the day and convincingly won all games. Bridget Kerrigan, Chloe Coe, Brodii Ingram and Brittany Coe were all selected to go to NSWCCC selection trials in Penrith in June. Congratulations to our girls. Ben McCurley and Malachi Towns played with St Mary's, Gunnedah in the 13s team scoring a try each.

Diocesan Cross Country and Tennis - Moree

On 6 May a number of McCarthy students travelled to Moree for Cross Country and Tennis events against other schools in the Armidale Diocese.

Cross Country

Sophie Heeney was successful in the 14 year girls division finishing with an outstanding time of 14 minutes and 26 seconds. This time was also faster than the boys. Bronte Ellicott and Lauren Clark (13 years) came in 10th and 12th respectively.

Sophie will represent the Armidale Diocesan at the NSWCCC Cross Country Championships at Eastern Creek on Friday 3 June.

Tennis

In the tennis competition, McCarthy had one boys and two girls teams competing. Students played singles and then paired up to play doubles. Harrison Kuczer and Lachlan Bright played well but were knocked out by Moree. Nicky Myers and Eliza Richards played a great game but were defeated in the semi-finals. Gemma Campbell and Emma Barnes defeated Gunnedah 1 (3 sets - 0) and Moree 1 (2 sets - 1 set), 7-6 in the doubles, to win the competition. They will now travel to Bathurst to represent the Armidale Diocese at the NSWCCC Tennis Championships in June.

Rugby Union

Luke Dillon, Scott Davies, Jake Deasey and Harry Lord travelled to Orange recently for the Under 16 Western CCC Rugby Union trials. Scott and Luke were selected to represent the Dioceses of Bathurst, Wilcannia Forbes and Armidale at the NSWCCC Rugby Union trials on 16 and 17 May at the University of Western Sydney, Richmond.

Scott Domis trialled for the Open Division NSWCCC Rugby Union team at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury this week.

Soccer

Lizzie Doherty, Mark Sfeir and Thomas Foote travelled to Bathurst on 24 March for Dioceses of Armidale, Bathurst and Wilcannia Forbes Football (soccer) selection trials. Congratulations to Lizzie who will trial at the NSWCCC Interdiocesan Championships in Preston on Tuesday 24 May. We wish her well.

Bill Turner Trophy - Girls Soccer

Round 2 of the Bill Turner Trophy Knockout competition was played at Gipps Street fields last Monday between McCarthy and Oxley High School. The game was played late in the afternoon under very cool conditions that made sitting on the bench a little less desirable than playing.

McCarthy opened the scoring with a fantastic passage of play between our midfielders and forwards, concluding with a beautifully timed shot by Sophie Heeney. This was answered by another terrific strike by Julianna Bruno from long range, to take the score to 2 - 0.

During the second half, Hope Martin joined the goal scorers, with a well deserved goal, taking the score to 3 - 0.

The McCarthy girls must be commended on their effort during the match and for outstanding behaviour on and off the field. McCarthy will now move to Round 3 of the competition to play a team from Central West, yet to be confirmed.

Mr Ronny Rindo

NSWCCC Swimming

Ellie Camilleri, Anna Camilleri, Jayden Gimbergh, Reubben Short and Brice Davy competed at the NSWCCC Swimming Championships at Homebush recently. All students improved their personal best times and achieved credible results.

Duri Public School Horse Sports

On Friday 6 May, ten students attended the Duri Public School Horse Sports. Students competed in a variety of events including riding classes, hack classes and sport events, with all students winning ribbons. Ben Collett was awarded the Senior Boy rider. A good day was had by all students who competed in great McCarthy spirit.

Mrs Julie Kellahan - McCarthy Horse Sports Coordinator

Rugby League Arrive Alive Cup

On Friday 6 May, McCarthy's Open League team contested Round 1 of the Arrive Alive Rugby League competition. Our team tried hard but were outplayed by a well polished Duvall High School team. We eventually went down 48-16. Standout player for McCarthy was captain Peter McGuirk, who scored two tries. Five-eight Josh Howarth, tackled non-stop all day, and forward Luke Dillon continually crashed over the advantage line.

I would like to thank all boys for representing our school with great pride and special thanks to Mr McQueen and Mr Sharp for assisting on the day.

Sport Notes

Mouthguards are mandatory in hockey, rugby league, rugby union and AFL. They are highly recommended in water polo. They are optional in netball, basketball and soccer.

I wish to remind parents that the McCarthy Code of Conduct on the reverse side of sport permission notes must be signed by the student and a parent.

Mr Mark Falkenmire – Sports Coordinator

CCC Basketball Tournament

McCarthy hosted the annual NSWCCC Northern Basketball Tournament on 29 and 30 April. Forty-two teams from Catholic secondary schools around northern NSW competed to have the opportunity to advance to the final ten teams in the state. McCarthy entered ten sides into the tournament. Thirty-two referees and a variety of parental help assisted in the running of the carnival. This was the first time the carnival was held at the new "Sports Dome" which made the organisation easier. McCarthy were successful again with all boys' teams (7/8, 9/10 & 11/12) progressing to their respective state finals in either Maitland (seniors Week 10 Term 2) and Penrith (juniors Week 6 Term 3). All girls' sides were competitive, with most making the semi finals. Thank you to Mrs Jones and Mrs Burt for coaching these sides. I know that all players had a wonderful time under your guidance.

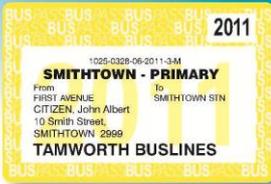


I would like to express a big thank you to all the staff and parents who assisted in the organisation and running of the carnival, with special mention to Sue and Darren Paff. I also would like to thank the committee who assisted with the organisation of the carnival. Without Bill Higgins, Helen Ellison, Terrie Kay and Trent Balderston, our students would not have the same opportunities to participate in basketball.

Mr Luke Adams

The safest way to and from School
may be absolutely **FREE!**

Most children are eligible
for free school bus travel.

Contact Tamworth Buslines
Phone: 6762 3999

Discounted Term Passes available
to non-eligible students



21 Hume Street Tamworth, www.tamworthbuslines.com.au