

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

'Reflect on what I am saying,
for the Lord will give you insight into all this.'

(2 Timothy 2:7)

Reflection....it enables our minds to be stretched in three different directions-the direction that leads to a proper relationship with God, the relationship that leads to a healthy relationship with others, and the relationship that leads to a deeper understanding of oneself.

Mark Connolly

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

MOODLE

As most parents are aware, McCarthy has developed a MOODLE based website to allow members of the school community to have access to a wide range of material relating to school life. Information accessible includes curriculum, assessment, calendar items, parenting support information and much more.

All notes that are produced are also available on the MOODLE site to assist those families who, for a range of reasons, may not receive notes that have been distributed. The notes can be simply downloaded and printed for your convenience.

Parents are able to follow their child's assessment program and see information relevant to their specific year group.

Students have individual usernames and passwords for full access to the student domains. Parents can access those areas using their child's log-in details. However, to enable simple access to parenting sections, the following details may be used by all parents:

Username: parent

Password: parent

This really is an outstanding resource and I recommend it to all parents.

Term 2 Report

The Term 2 Report, outlining activities and improvement efforts from last term, is available on MOODLE under the 'Parents' banner.

Outstanding Student Performance

Brianna Pearson won the High Flyer Scholarship for the Hospitality and Events category of the annual Kenvale College Awards on Saturday night. Stephanie Hartin was also a member of the High Flyer Team. The scholarship is a two year program valued at \$28,000 (for tuition). She will work at the Raddison Blu Plaza Hotel as part of this course.

Trial HSC Examinations

The Trial HSC Exams begin on Monday 1 August and continue until Monday 15 August. All students have been given a copy of the Examination timetable, and it can also be accessed via a link on the College website. These exams will be an important indicator for both staff and students of the effectiveness of the work done to date, and of any areas that require additional attention.

Students are asked to be at school at least 20 minutes prior to the advertised starting time of each exam. Students are not required to be at school if they do not have a scheduled exam. Students may access the library and other resources during study times, but they are asked to please wear school uniform on these occasions and to sign in at the Office. The school community wishes Year 12 students all the best.

Vampire Shield

McCarthy is currently ranked eighth in the state in the Vampire Shield competition. That means that we are one of the top ten schools in NSW in terms of blood donations. This is an excellent form of service to our community. Congratulations are extended to all students involved and to Mrs Sanson, who organises our commitment.

Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program

The Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures (HSHF) program is a joint initiative between Catholic Schools, the Department of Education and Training and Hunter New England Health. One of the goals of the program is to increase resilience in our students and to improve their health and wellbeing.

Our school has been selected among thirty-two secondary schools from across the Maitland/Newcastle and Armidale Dioceses to participate in this study. The program will run for four years. If you have a child in Years 7 – 10 you will receive information in the mail asking for written consent for your child to participate in the student survey section of the study. You will also be invited to complete a parent survey.

If you have any other questions about this program or about participation in this study please contact Megan Freund, the Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program Manager on (02) 4924 6374.

Diary Dates

28 July:	HSC Business Studies Day
1 Aug:	Trial HSC commences
2 Aug:	ICAS English Test
2 Aug:	Year 8 English performance
3 Aug:	Year 10 TVET/SBAT Information Evening
3/4 Aug:	Brain Bee Challenge
4 Aug:	Australian Maths Competition
5 Aug:	St Dominic's Day
9 Aug:	Year 11 Senior Success Program
11 Aug:	Diocesan Athletics Carnival
15 Aug:	Whole School Mass 11.30am
15 Aug:	HSC Drama Performance Evening
16 Aug:	ICAS Maths Test
16 Aug:	Board & Association Meetings
5 Sept:	Pupil Free Day



Coles Sports for Schools Program

Coles and Woolworths are currently conducting voucher programs for schools. McCarthy will be participating in both programs. Any vouchers collected from family and friends can be placed in the appropriate box in the Library foyer. Coles vouchers will contribute to sporting equipment and Woolies vouchers will provide books, stationary and art supplies. We would be grateful for support of these programs.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Whole School Mass**

The whole school will attend Mass on the Feast of the Assumption at 11.30am on 15 August in all four churches in Tamworth. All parents and friends are most welcome to attend with the school. This day is a holy day of obligation; one of only two holy days of obligation in the Church calendar, since September 2001; the other is Christmas Day. This means that there is the same obligation to attend Mass as there is on Sunday.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE**Condolences**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Maddison Trotter and her family following the passing of her father.

School Expenses and Tax Claims

Some people are eligible to claim 50% of approved education expenses for the 2010-11 financial year. From 1 July 2012, school uniforms can also be claimed. Receipts will need to be kept from now. For eligibility and other details please visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

Housing NSW Youth Scholarships 2012

The Housing NSW Youth Scholarship Program helps eligible young people living in social housing to complete their Higher School Certificate (HSC) or TAFE equivalent by providing a one-off payment of \$2,000 to be spent on educational related items. A student is eligible to apply if he/she is living in social housing in NSW (public housing, Aboriginal housing or community housing) or on the NSW Housing Register, and meets certain conditions. For more information see <http://intranet.hne.health.nsw.gov.au/hr> or contact Mrs McGregor.

Theme of the Week

Self Help Learning – a 4 stage process to increase responsibility for learning was discussed in Week 1. Students are encouraged to use *Self* (knowledge, skills, persistence), then *Resources* (notes, text, internet), then *Colleagues/Peers* (partners in learning), then *Teachers*.

Our school motto is *Receive, Worship, Serve*. During Week 2 we considered the opportunities and responsibility we have to be of service in the school and the wider community.

Merit Awards

When students receive 5 Merit Certificates, at least one of which is for service to others, they become eligible for a Certificate of Achievement. The award is not automatic, but dependent upon the merit recognition coming from a number of teachers, and on their compliance with the Code of Conduct in all areas of the school.

It was my pleasure on assembly to ask Mrs Rayment to present the first 2011 recipients with their Certificates of Achievement. Congratulations to:

Year 12: Fletcher Davies, James Forsyth, Kate Lumber, Gemma Myers

Year 10: Anna Camilleri

Year 9: Ellie Sampson

Year 8: Sarah Croake, Darcy Flynn

Year 7: Abby Rae, Gabrielle Vella

"The soul is healed by being with children." – Feodor Doestoevsky

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS**Expo**

The *Live, Train and Work in Tamworth Expo* will be held on Tuesday 2 August from 5.30pm at the Town Hall. This is open to students (especially Years 9-12) and parents.

Workshops

Vital Connections Workshops will be held at the Tamworth Community Centre. The workshops are aimed at connecting Year 10 and/or Year 9 students with a range of industries and employers and other stakeholders. The workshop dates and industries represented at each are as follows:

Workshop 1 (Automotive, Electrotechnology, Engineering, Plumbing and Construction Trades): Wednesday 10 August 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

Workshop 2 (General industry – Health, Aged, Finance, Real Estate, Business, Retail, Hairdressing, Beauty, Animal Care, IT, Pharmacy etc): Tuesday 30 August 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

Interested students are asked to collect a flyer and RSVP form from me in the Careers Room.

Year 10 – Mandatory SBAT/TVET Information Meeting

This is for students looking at these options for Year 11 and their parents. It will be held at the school on Wednesday 3 August at 7.00pm.

Year 12 Students

Following on from the University Information Evening held this week, all UAC 2012 books and early entry forms will be distributed on Tuesday 16 August. Students will also be receiving their UAC PIN this week. This is separate from the BOS PIN given out earlier this year. Students are asked to make copies of both and put them somewhere safe to use when needed.

Many decisions need to be made this term regarding applications for university, some TAFE courses, scholarships and colleges. I encourage students and parents to regularly check for CareersAlert emails to ensure they know what is happening, news and deadlines that may apply to them.

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

LITERACY NEWS

We often talk about literacy and how important literacy skills are. So *what is literacy?* Put simply, literacy refers to our ability to communicate by writing, speaking, listening, reading and viewing. Our ability to do these things grows and changes over our life span and there are several tried and tested ways to strengthen our literacy skills.

One of the most effective ways to improve our vocabulary and our understanding of the world is by **reading a wide variety of texts**. We need to read non-fiction texts (such as the newspaper) to gain information about the world and we need to read literature (books/plays/poems) to help develop our imagination and most importantly for enjoyment! Reading is very important and should not be underestimated in the power it has to improve a young person's written skills, spelling and understanding of the world in which they live.

As parents, one of the many ways you can help your child to progress at school is to encourage them to read. Some teenagers stop reading during the high school years and it can seem impossible to get them to pick up a book again. The best piece of advice I can give you is to suggest and expose your child to texts that interest them. This might be classic novels such as "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", but it also might be a magazine about cycling, music or motocross. The most important thing is not what they are reading but simply that they are reading. In a perfect world, all of our children would read every night before bed, even if it is just for a few minutes. I encourage parents to go to the following website to find a list of books that both boys and girls might enjoy: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/43.Best_Young_Adult_Books

The College and local libraries are excellent resources and borrowing is free.

Happy reading!

Mrs Gill Downes (Literacy Support)

PARENT INFORMATION

TALKBACK SESSION **Discipline Policy and Behaviour Management** **Tuesday 16 August 7.00pm**

Did you know??

Each month the McCarthy Association incorporates a parent education session into the general meeting. The next topic in the program looks at the schools' Discipline Policy and Behaviour Management Program. In this session, Principal, Mrs Kate Rayment, will outline the McCarthy approach to these complex areas of school life and how they affect both you and your children. Please join us for this informative meeting and learn some important facts to help you and your children discover a richer McCarthy experience.

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.

Thank You To Mrs Kate Rayment

At the July McCarthy Association meeting we were given a fantastic overview of the latest local and international research and trends in Homework. We all gained a valuable insight into the world of after school study and how to get the best from our children whilst keeping the family balanced.

CANTEEN NEWS**Canteen Thanks**

We were pleased to provide Canteen facilities at the Athletics Carnival and the weather allowed us to enjoy a BBQ which contributed to the atmosphere of the day. Tasks of this magnitude, however, cannot be achieved without the assistance of our helpers. Special thanks are extended to Gerard Ritchie, Inga Potter, Jenny Ayres, Michelle Simmonds, Trina Wieland, Marie Rice, Sue Paff and Laura and Josie Hughes who worked hard to ensure that everyone was fed, watered and entertained on the day, and to Michael Herden and Ned Forrest who assisted by transporting everything to our off-site canteen. Also thank you to our leaders, members of the SLC and other students who willingly provided assistance with setting up and organisation; their support is always appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Canteen Term 3

We will continue to serve hot food and dishes during Term 3. Students are advised of the hot dishes and soups available on the Canteen Noticeboard daily. Students are asked to order their lunches prior to Homeclass as it assists with preparation and supply.

Canteen Volunteers

Understandably volunteers' circumstances change and we are always in need of volunteers who can assist in the Canteen. If you are in a position to assist from 9:30am to 1:30pm one day or more this term please contact Raelee Balderston on 67610856 or baldo@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

SPORT

Athletics Carnival

The school Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 1 July, the last day of last term. There was an excellent level of student participation and spirit. Congratulations to Edmund Rice for winning the overall point score on the day. Dominic won the Participation Award on the day.

Point Score

Edmund Rice 712 points, Chisholm 661 points, Dominic 652, McKillop 555 points. Participation points: Dominic 221, Chisholm 218, McKillop 200, Edmund Rice 169.

Age Champions

Girls

- 12 years Darcie Martin
- 13 years Alice Murphy
- 14 years Sophie Heeney
- 15 years Mikala Dimmock
- 16 years Gemma Campbell
- 17+ years Alice Read

Boys

- Jack Cameron
- Douglas Pianta
- Nathan Climpson
- Ryan Prentice
- Nathan Paff and James Dunn
- Nathan Leehy



Hockey

Congratulations to Ashley Ninness on her selection in the NSW All Schools Open Girls Hockey Merit Team. Congratulations to Chris Ninness on his selection in the NSW All Schools Under 16 (Seconds) Hockey team. He will compete at the National Hockey Championships at Newcastle in August. Congratulations to Chris Ninness and Issac Farmilo on their selection in the NSW Association Under 15 Hockey side. They will compete at the National Hockey Championships at Melbourne in October. Also, congratulations to Jack Cruickshank on his selection in the NSW Association Under 13 Hockey team.

CCC Soccer

On Thursday 21 July, McCarthy had two teams play in the quarter finals of the CCC Soccer Competition – the Open Girls and the 7-10 Boys.

The boys played St Pius X from Adamstown in Newcastle and were very unlucky to be defeated 1 – 0 in a close game. Sam Yabsley had a good game in goals for McCarthy as did Matt and James Dunn at the back. Rhett Graham and Tom Paff also played very well.

The Open Girls team played St Joseph's Lochinvar in a very tight and hard fought match that resulted in McCarthy being defeated 3 – 2. McCarthy showed determination and resilience playing without any reserves and were very unlucky to lose the game.

Credit must be given to Liz Doherty who played well in the field as did Alicia Guest who had a great game in goals.

I would like to thank Mrs Kate Woolaston for supervising the girls on the day and to Mr Michael Herden for driving us to and from the matches.

Mr Ronny Rindo