

Newsletter

Telephone: (02) 6761 0800

Postal Address: PO Box 3486 West Tamworth NSW 2340

Email: admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

Facsimile: (02) 6766 4557

Website: www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

McCarthy Office Hours: 7.30am – 4.00pm



Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

*Let him who walks in the dark
who has no light,
trust in the name of the Lord
and rely on his God.
(Isaiah 50:10)*

*The way may at times seem dark, but light will arise,
if you trust in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.
(Elizabeth King)*

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Important Opportunity/Cyber-safety

After three years attempting to gain access to the government's Cyber-safety program we have finally been offered a date: Tuesday 20 September.

The Cybersmart program is a national cybersafety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA), as part of the Australian Government's commitment to promoting online safety for children and young people.

The Cybersmart program aims to:

- **Inform** children, parents, teachers and library staff about cybersafety issues
- **Educate** audiences through information, resources and practical advice
- **Empower** children to be safe online.

The Cybersmart Outreach team will be at our school on Tuesday 20 September. They will run three sessions on the day.

Session 1: for students 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Session 2: for staff 3.20pm – 5.00pm

Session 3: for parents 7.00pm – 9.00pm

This is an excellent and rare opportunity. I highly recommend attendance at the parent session.

Staffing

Our school counsellor, Mr Steve Mair, finished last week. Steve's replacement will be announced shortly. We wish Steve well for his future endeavours.

Mrs Ashleigh Jones will be taking Maternity Leave from the end of this week. We wish Ashleigh and Adam all the best for the arrival of their new family member. Ashleigh will be replaced by Mr Cameron Thornton. Cameron has been working in the school as a casual teacher since arriving in Tamworth from Canberra. We look forward to having Cameron as a fulltime member of our school community.

Enrolment Interviews

Round 2 enrolment interviews conclude this week. The interviewing team has been very impressed with the calibre of applicants for 2012. Offers and notifications will be sent over the coming fortnight. The next phase involves transition, including individual programs; New Parents' Information Night (29 November) and Orientation Day (30 November).

Student Success

Kate Lumber (Year 12) was one of ten young people from across the nation selected to attend the influential Government and Industry Forum in Canberra last month. Kate represented the University of New England's Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) program. She made a presentation to the Think Tank, informed by her PICSE Scholarship experience, about careers in Science that support food security in Australia.

Jessica Moore (Year 10) has applied to take part in the *Young Endeavour* program through the NSW RSL. The *Young Endeavour* is crewed by Royal Australian Navy crew who teach young people how to sail, including how to navigate, keep watch, take the helm, cook in the gallery, tie knots, work aloft and take command. We wish Jessica well.

College Choir

The newly formed McCarthy College Choir, involving students, staff and parents, rehearses each Wednesday at lunchtime (12.40pm – 1.20pm) in the Music room. All parents are welcome.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Woolworths Earn and Learn Program

The Year 11 SLC representatives are promoting and facilitating the Woolworths Earn and Learn program, with schools across Australia receiving resources for points earned. A letter was given to all students recently outlining the program and the type of resources available.

Diary Dates

11 Aug:	Trial HSC Exams continues
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
16 Aug:	CCC Netball
20 Aug:	HSC French Continuers
22 Aug:	CCC Basketball (Juniors)
25 Aug:	Young Drivers Expo (Year 11)
27 Aug:	HSC French Beginners
29 Aug:	Trial School Certificate
30 Aug:	Trial School Certificate
30 Aug:	HSC English Study Day
31 Aug:	HSC Music Performance Evening
5 Sept:	Pupil Free Day

In order to contribute, students need to bring Woolworths shopping docket and place them in the collection box in the library. The points will be uploaded on a regular basis, so that the school community can see how well McCarthy is doing. Please support the Year 11 SLC in their efforts.

Coles Sports for Schools Program

The school is also collecting Coles docket for the Sports for Schools Program. All Woolworths and Coles docket will be gratefully accepted.

Student Empowerment Workshop

On Thursday 11 August, four SLC representatives will participate in a Student Empowerment workshop in Tamworth, examining issues related to student empowerment and the benefits associated with authentically engaging young people within a whole school approach to mental health promotion. They will be accompanied by Mrs Fiona O'Neill and Mrs Sally Sparke.

Uniform Policy

The Executive asks all parents to please support our Uniform Policy. On a number of occasions this year, I have alluded to the value we place on the school uniform being worn correctly and with pride. I urge you to please check that your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. Of particular concern is the wearing of ballet slippers and canvas shoes. As I have explained previously, these types of footwear are not appropriate to be worn at school.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Whole School Mass

McCarthy students and staff will attend Mass on Monday 15 August for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, as follows: Edmund Rice House – Mary Help of Christians, South Tamworth; Chisholm House – St Patricks, West Tamworth; MacKillop House – St Nicholas, East Tamworth; Dominic House – St Marys, North Tamworth. Parents and friends are most welcome to join us for Mass which will be at **11.30am**.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ted and Beau Alderton, Morgan Pennefather and their families following the passing of their grandmother.

Theme of the Week

Effective 'Time Management' can enhance academic achievement, increase opportunities for family and social time and help students lead a balanced, successful and enjoyable life. During Week 3 students were asked to identify and control time wasters, prioritise tasks, and use their planners, calendars and weekly timetables.

In Week 4, the benefits of a positive attitude were discussed. We all can discard negative habits of mind and adopt positive thinking habits, stop complaining and accept or change unpleasant situations and try to find opportunities in misfortune.

"The main thing is to make the main thing, the main thing". – Steven Covey

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Coming events:

Tuesday 30 August: TAFE Vital Connections Workshops for Year 10 students. (General industry – Health, Aged, Finance, Real Estate, Business, Retail, Hairdressing, Beauty, Animal Care, IT, Pharmacy etc) 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

Year 10 students need to be making decisions and seeking advice on subject choices and considering work experience if they are intending to leave school at the end of Year 10.

August 16: UAC 2012 books and early entry forms distributed to Year 12 students. The process for logging onto UAC explained to all Year 12 students.

September 6: Early entry and scholarship forms due to me.

September 7: WorkWi\$e - information night for all job seekers currently in Years 10-12 who will be seeking full-time jobs (permanent, gap year, apprenticeships, traineeships etc). A panel of local employers will be at McCarthy to give advice on what students need to know about getting a job and what will help them achieve this goal. There will be information on resumes, interviews and much more.

September 13: Mineral Council of NSW dinner.

UAC PIN

Year 12 students will receive their UAC PINs soon. They will need to ensure they safeguard their PIN and make copies when it arrives. Students are reminded to check their emails regularly for important career information.

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

ENGLISH

English MOODLE Websites

English staff members have designed MOODLE pages to complement each unit of study in Years 7-12. Resources have been designed and carefully selected to assist students to understand the key concepts and text type of each unit. The assessment task for every unit is centred on the text type allocated to each unit of work.

Each section of the MOODLE page commences with links entitled "What is this unit about?" and "The assessment for this unit is...". These sections clearly outline the aim and scope of the unit and the assessment text type for the unit.

Links to useful websites and resources provide knowledge, deepen understanding and encourage students to work to achieve greater success in English.

Year 10 MOODLE site for the English School Certificate Examination

The Year 10 MOODLE site is specifically designed to assist Year 10 students in their home study program. Comprehension activities, links to Board of Studies multiple choice style practice questions as well as drill and skill activities are available on this site. Information for parents is also provided to better equip them to support their children's preparation for the School Certificate.

Mrs Katrina Sullivan – English Coordinator

EUROPEAN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE 2012

We are excited to announce the possibility of another school excursion to Europe in the April school holidays 2012. This will initially be offered to students in Years 11 and 12 in 2012 and any interested parents.

The excursion will provide students with a first-hand experience of many of the historical and cultural aspects of Europe that cross the content of many KLA subject areas, in particular Studies of Religion, Modern and Ancient History and Visual Arts.

Activities include: an exploration of the historical and religious aspects of the city of Rome and the Vatican; visiting the ancient sites in Rome and the city of Pompeii; exploring Florence, focusing on the works of Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci; exploring famous WW1 battle fields such as Ypres and the Somme; visiting Paris and exploring the Louvre and the palace of Versailles.

A preliminary itinerary is available from the office. An expression of interest in this exciting opportunity is required at the office by Wednesday 24 August.

BRAIN BEE STATE FINAL

In first term, nine Year 10 students (Anna Camilleri, James Dunn, Stephanie Elsley, Alex King, Claire Rice, Sarah Robinson, Jerome Studdy, Harry Vella and Hannah Woods) entered the Brain Bee Challenge, an on-line test of participants' knowledge and understanding of the science of the human brain. Four students were selected to proceed to the next level of the competition.

On 4 August the students, accompanied by Mr James Vella and Mrs Claire King, travelled to the University of Western Sydney at Campbelltown to compete in the State Finals of the Brain Bee Challenge.

Jerome Studdy, Alex King, Sarah Robinson and James Dunn spent the day participating in individual and team competitions. The winning student, from Armidale, proceeds to represent NSW at the National Finals.

In between the nerve-wracking and mind-twistingly difficult quizzes, the students were introduced to some practical neuroscience as they tested each others' nerve responses with gradually increasing electric shocks (all conducted under strict supervision of course) and toured the neuroscience laboratories to see some human tests in progress, including pain research and live human brain stimulation. The most anticipated event of the competition was the opportunity to hold a real human brain. Whilst our students did not progress further in the competition, their committed efforts to prepare for the Challenge and their great participation on the day made us very proud. Special thanks go to Mrs King who generously gave her time to provide supervision for the excursion.

Ms Karen Dickinson – Science Teacher



Property Planning 2011

Congratulations to Shae Parsons who has been announced as a finalist in the 2011 Property Planning Competition. This competition involved the Year 11 Agriculture class travelling to a property near Somerton and spending the day analyzing the soils, physical resources and current management strategies employed on the property. Armed with the knowledge they gained on the field trip, the students designed a management plan for the property that addressed sustainability issues and incorporated a number of the land holders' wishes for the farm. The top two entrants from each school were selected for submission into the competition and were judged up against 500 other competitors from across the Northern and Southern Zones. Holly Perryman and Shae Parsons' entries were submitted to the competition organisers and Shae has been selected as a finalist in the Senior Division of the competition. Students have a little longer to wait before they hear their final placements, which will be announced at an awards ceremony at AgQuip later this month. We wish Shae all the best for the final presentation.

Miss Leanne Sjollema – Agriculture Teacher

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 school's 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.

Ideas for Social Events?

Do you have a great idea for a parent/guardian social get together? Please email your suggestions to Emma Swivel Beckett cowgirl@tpg.com.au or come along to the next meeting.

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.



SHOW TEAM

This month two students from the McCarthy Show Team, Eliza Quinn and Shonia Poole, competed in the Group 14 Zone Finals for Junior Judging. The finals were held out at the Calrossy Training Farm and included Fleece, Meat and Wool Sheep judging classes as well as Beef Cattle Junior Judging Classes. Shonia (pictured) was awarded 2nd place in the Merino Sheep Judging Competition and also placed 2nd in the Merino Fleece Judging Competition. Shonia is to be congratulated on this outstanding result and she will now progress to the State Finals which are held at the Royal Easter Show next year.

Miss Leanne Sjollema – McCarthy Show Team Coordinator

YEAR 7 TECHNOLOGY

During Semester 1, Year 7 Technology (Plant) worked from scratch to design a vegetable garden. Students followed the design process as required by the course and were able to produce a lush vegetable garden. The students produced a variety of vegetables including broccoli, onions, leeks, snow peas, lettuce, beetroot. The students had the opportunity to take the harvested vegetables home. This semester, another Year 7 Technology group has started work on the garden and the students hope to reap the rewards from their efforts.

Mr Charlie James – Year 7 Technology Teacher



LITERACY NEWS

I have recently been working closely with a number of Year 8 students, helping them to improve their written work. We have been focusing on some simple ways to **improve** the quality of their writing.

What are these simple techniques?

Firstly, and most importantly, **editing is the key to improving your writing**. When I sit down with a student, the first thing I ask them to do is to read over their work and highlight or circle any mistakes they come across. The students are consistently surprised at how many mistakes they actually make in their first draft. Spelling errors, missing words in sentences, no capital letters for proper nouns, missing full stops... errors that are easily made, but also easily fixed.

Secondly, we have been looking at **strengthening and improving the vocabulary** of our students. My favourite question for them is: Can you think of a better word for that? There are particular words which are fantastic for primary school students to use, such as 'big' or 'nice' or 'a lot'. These words are too simple and basic for secondary school students to be using and they need to be replaced with something more mature or sophisticated.

What are my hot tips for the week in regard to literacy?

1. **Encourage your child to edit their work.** Ask them if they would like you to read over it for them. Reading the written work out loud is a simple way to pick up missing words or sentences that don't quite sound right. Editing takes time, but it is vitally important.
2. **Dust off the thesaurus from your bookshelf** – or purchase one. Thesauruses offer alternative words and help us to improve our vocabulary. Of course, there are numerous online thesauruses that your children can simply and quickly use if they are typing their written work.

Until next time, enjoy your proof reading.

Mrs Gill Downes – Literacy Support

SPORT

All Schools Touch

Brittany Coe captained the NSW CCC Under 16 Touch team at Narrabeen last week against CHS and CIS teams. After the round robin competition, CCC qualified to meet CHS in the final. CCC defeated CHS 3 – 1 with Brittany scoring a try. Brittany went on to be selected in the All Schools Under 16 Touch team to compete at the National Championships in Coffs Harbour later this year.

Waterpolo

Congratulations to Alice and Molly Lyden who will compete at the Hawaiian Invitational Waterpolo Carnival as part of the Hunter Academy of Sport's national winning team. The girls will be playing against teams from all over the world in the Under 15 division this week.

Diocesan Athletics Carnival

The Diocesan Athletics Carnival will be held today in Tamworth. Good luck to our thirty students. A report will appear in the next newsletter.

Baseball

Congratulations to Nathan Smith who was selected in the NSW Country 16s Baseball squad at the Youth Championships last weekend in Tamworth.

Showjumping

Congratulations to Jade McCusker and Lucy Munt on their recent success at the Tamworth Winter Showjumping Championships. Jade won the 1m AM7 on *Smarty Pants* and gained second and third placings in a number of other events. Lucy won the 95cm AM7 on *Dusty Aura*. Jade will be competing at the Brisbane Queensland Show (Ekka) next week.