

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

'Let my soul be at rest again, for the Lord has been good to me...
And so I walk in the Lord's presence as I live here on earth.'
(Psalm 116:7,9)

Live for today but hold your hands open to tomorrow.
Anticipate the future and its changes with joy. There is a seed
of God's love in every event, every circumstance, every
situation in which you may find yourself.
(Barbara Johnson)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Term 4

The final term of 2011 is upon us and much is to be done before we tick off another year. This term is a term of examinations, as Year 12 students sit the Higher School Certificate, Year 10 the School Certificate and students in Years 7, 8 and 9 their End-of-Year Examinations. Year 11 students are receiving their Preliminary Year final reports and commencing HSC studies.

The term began with a pupil free day. This day was the annual Religious Education day, mandated for all schools in the diocese. Our teaching and in-class-support staff examined the implications of the New Evangelisation and ways we can meet this renewed call to be Catholics of substance through all we do at McCarthy.

Term 3 Report

A copy of the Term 3 Report is now available online.

School Survey Results

The results of the full school perception survey conducted last term have been received. The results have been presented in a very detailed format, providing a thorough and comprehensive study of stakeholder perceptions. The responses from students, parents and staff paint a very positive picture of the status of the school and directions the school is taking. I thank, especially, the parents who took the time to respond to the survey. A summary will be presented to the Board next month and a portion of the presentation will be sent out with one of the future newsletters.

Year 12

The school community wishes Year 12 students all the best for the Higher School Certificate exams. We are confident in their preparation and the hard work most have put in to their studies. They will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers throughout the examination period and the ensuing months.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Professional Development Day

The Pupil Free Day, on the first day of Term 4, was our annual RE Professional Development day. In the first part of the day we viewed a keynote address delivered at a recent national conference, for staff in Catholic schools. The speaker was Dr Dan White, who is the Executive Director of the Catholic Schools Office in Sydney. He spoke on New Evangelisation which is currently very topical. He raised some very interesting points about the role of Catholic schools in bringing the Gospel message to the students and the importance of meeting people 'where they are at' in order to do this. The address generated some good discussion about how many of the issues raised relate to our school. We will review comments made and consider ideas presented in the future. Spiritual wellbeing was the focus of the afternoon session. Both Christian Meditation and Lectio Divina were explained and staff participated in both these activities, gaining skills they can use to enhance spiritual wellbeing.

St Vinnies

It was pleasing to see many new members at the first meeting this term. The election of leaders for 2012 will take place at our next meeting.

Whole School Mass

The Mass we will attend as a whole school this term will be on All Souls day on 2 November. All are welcome to attend.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

Diary Dates

20 Oct:	HSC continues
20 Oct:	Love Bites Program – Year 9
20 Oct:	Downie Shield
26 Oct:	Year 7 Vaccinations
26 Oct:	Year 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews
1 Nov:	HSC Visual Arts marking
2 Nov:	All Souls Whole School Mass
2 Nov:	Leadership Conference
7 Nov:	School Certificate
8 Nov:	School Certificate
9 Nov:	School Certificate
9 Nov:	Year 7-9 Exams
10 Nov:	Year 7-9 Exams
11 Nov:	Year 7-9 Exams
14 Nov:	Year 12 Graduation Dinner

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jayana-Jade Mangan and her family following the passing of her grandfather and also with Robert Anderson and his family as they mourn the loss of his grandmother.

Lovebites

Year 9 students are participating in the Lovebites Program which is delivered by Centacare and the Family Relationships Centre. It focuses on safe behaviours and highlights issues relating to relationships, sexual assault, domestic violence and the use (and abuse) of technology.

Vaccinations

Year 7 will complete their 2011 vaccination program on Wednesday 26 October. All Year 7 students are asked to wear sports uniform on that day. Please ensure that your child has breakfast and has water.

Thank You

Many thanks to Mr Brian Sullivan and the Lions Club for providing the opportunity for three of our Year 7 students to have a coastal holiday at Camp Elim at Forster. The students, families and the school are most appreciative.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who are the first recipients of a Principal's Award in 2011. This award is presented to students who have a minimum of ten Merit Certificates with at least two being awarded for service to others. They must also have exemplary behaviour.

Year 12: Fletcher Davies, James Forsyth, Emma Hatfield, Kate Lumber and Gemma Myers.

Theme of the Week

We started the term considering how to be *Just and Fair*. October is Mental Health Month and the theme this year is Wellbeing: Investing in Your Life. In Week 2 we looked at strategies to improve our emotional, physical, spiritual and community health. "Life isn't fair, but you and I should be." (Anonymous)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

TEACHING AND LEARNING

HSC 2011

HSC Examinations began on Monday 17 October with the Business Studies paper. Papers so far have been fair, yet challenging. Students generally feel that they are well prepared and have been able to confidently attempt most questions. We all wish the Year 12 cohort the best in these exams and are sure they will achieve their best.

Just a reminder that students should give themselves plenty of time before the exam begins. Students should be at school 45 minutes before the exams start ie 8.40am for the morning session and 1.10pm for the afternoon session.

Year 12 2012

Year 11 students begin their program of study for the HSC this term. The students have been encouraged to spend the first few weeks preparing for the next four terms. This means organising a study space at home, ensuring they have folders and required texts, and beginning a regular HSC study program.

The key to HSC success is regular and consistent revision and study. Student assessment booklets will be issued this week and students need to ensure that they are aware when tasks are due so that time can be managed effectively. Students are also encouraged to seek the help of teachers, their Year Coordinator (Mrs Stuart) and myself if they are experiencing difficulties in completing tasks. The important message is not to leave things until the last minute. Students are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with assessment requirements and penalties for late submission of tasks and procedures when sick.

Exams

Could parents please refer to the school calendar and be aware of examination periods and not organise family holidays during these times.

Ms Denise McHugh – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

Information on scholarships and courses continue to arrive; I ask students to continue to check their emails for updates and opportunities.

I take this opportunity to wish HSC students every success in the exams and remind them to seek advice, if needed, after they receive their results and ATARs in the last week of school in December.

Year 11 - Subject Choices

Many Year 11 students have been seeking to change their subject selections for the HSC. Year 11 students attended a presentation last Tuesday on the HSC, ATARs, scaling and the issues to consider when contemplating making changes. It is important to ensure that options are not being minimised by choices made now that may cause regret in Year 12.

Year 10 - Work Experience

Any student considering work experience this term, especially those seeking apprenticeships and traineeships, are asked to see Mrs Robinson in the Careers Room while I am on Long Service Leave in Weeks 2-4.

Students are asked to see Mrs Robinson or myself to gain approval (some career choices are not available for work experience; especially those involving animals require CEC NSW approval, and construction sites require that the OH&S Construction Induction course has been completed). Once approval is given, students must find an employer willing to have them on work experience and organise the dates it will be done. The next step is to see obtain the necessary paperwork from Mrs Robinson or myself to be signed by the student, parent, employer and Careers Advisor.

It is important to realise that this process takes time and if all the necessary paperwork is not completed and handed in, the work experience cannot proceed.

Youth Allowance

The Legislation regarding changes to dependant and independent Youth Allowance due to commence in January 2012 was not finalised when Parliament sat last week. More information will be available once legislation is passed. The Centrelink website will be updated once this occurs.

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

EUROPE TRIP

Students are very excited about our excursion to Italy and France in the April school holidays 2012. Arrangements are currently being finalised.

Please ensure you email Mrs McHugh at denny123@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au if you are interested in going, so you can be added to the email list.

We hope to have a group of thirty visiting Rome and the Vatican City, the Pompeii dig, Florence, Assasi, Pisa and Venice, the Swiss Alps, Germany, the Battlefields of France, Paris and Versailles. This should be an excellent educational experience.

The itinerary can be found on the McCarthy website.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Congratulations to the following Junior Band members who successfully passed their Grade 1 Band Exam this week and earn promotion to the Senior Concert Band.

Monique Borchard - flute

Matthew Letton - trumpet

Gabbi Vella, Paige Leonard, Zoe Hannaford, Jasmin Vermunt – clarinet

Roy Barnes – baritone.

Mrs Lisa Lane – Band Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Mango Fundraiser

We are conducting our ever popular Mango Fundraiser again this month. Order forms were sent home with students last week and spare forms are available from the office. Please note orders and money are due to the school office by **Wednesday 26 October** in an envelope marked "Mango Fundraiser". Tell your family and friends. Thank you for your support.



Trivia Night Fun Raiser

On Friday 11 November (Remembrance Day) The Association will be holding a Trivia Night at the school. The focus is on **fun** not fund raising, hence "Fun Raiser". A flyer will be sent home with your child and is also available on the website for you to print out. It promises to be a fun evening with a lot of games and trivia.

Tables of 8 can be booked either at the office, by phoning 67610800, emailing admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au or by returning the slip at the bottom of the flyer to the office. Please see flyer for full details. Tables must be booked by 9 November.

What year was Marilyn Munro born?

What is the population of Tamworth?

What is the deadliest spider in the world?

Hope to see you there, it promises to be a night full of fun...and full of trivia!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 15 November. Please come along with any suggestions or ideas you may have. We look forward to seeing you there.

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.

SPORTS SHOES

There has been a significant increase in the number of students, particularly girls, wearing canvas style shoes or Dunlop volleys as part of their sports uniform. These shoes are not acceptable as part of the school PDHPE uniform.

Students will not be permitted to participate in practical PDHPE lessons if they are wearing this type of footwear, even if they have a note. These shoes offer minimal stability, traction and protection.

Mr Ian McKenzie – PDHPE Coordinator

2011 EX-STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Bill Chaffey, international paratriathlete, won a gold medal at the World Championships held on the 2008 Beijing Olympics Course. This is the most recent of many spectacular successes and his next major goals include the 2012 World Championships and the 2016 Olympics.

Bede Burke, Margo Taggart (nee Tongue), Lucy Haslam (nee Wake), and Mark Sleiman all won major awards at the recent Tamworth Quality Business Awards.

Amy Elliott, teacher at St Edwards, is among the finalists in the National Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2011.

Adam Jones is one of four Tamworth Regional Council trainees and apprentices given Regional Training Awards. He was presented with a finalists' certificate in the Apprentice of the Year category and a Highly Commended Award for his achievements.

SPORT

Touch Football

The Years 7/8 All Schools Touch Regional Qualifying Tournament was held at Tamworth on Wednesday 12 October. McCarthy entered a girls' team: Chloe Coe, Madeline Davidson, Rhiannon Graham, Sophie Heeney, Bridget Kerrigan, Amanda Mulcahy, Megan Murphy, Cara Paterson, Emily Sanderson and Lillian Stuart.

In the round games the team defeated Calrossy 3 – 0, Narrabri 4 – 1, Coonabarabran 11 – 0 and lost to eventual winners St Joseph's, Aberdeen 1 – 0. The girls played Tamworth High School in the semi-final and lost a hard-fought struggle 2-1.

Each member of the team scored at least one try throughout the day. Chloe Coe scored 6 tries and Bridget Kerrigan scored 4 tries. A great day was had by all players with all games played in a spirit of teamwork and good sportsmanship. The girls were a very cohesive team. Thanks to Brittany Coe for coaching on the day.

Gymnastics

Congratulations to Alice Murphy who won a silver medal in the Level 2 Teams event at the NSW Gymnastics Championships held at Homebush last weekend. Alice was a member of the North West team which consisted of 2 girls from Tamworth and 3 girls from Gunnedah.

Netball

Any student who will not be playing Netball next season, and would like to sell their uniform can label it with name, price and phone number and send it in to Mrs Burt at school for resale. Once it is sold, you will be contacted to make arrangements for collection of money.

Tamworth Adventure Playground

The Tamworth Adventure Playground website is now up and running. Please visit it and join in the adventure to raise money to make the dreams of Tamworth children a reality. At www.tamworthadventureplayground.com you can learn more about the Tamworth Adventure Playground, view some exciting and imaginative children's drawings that inspired the playground design, see the finished design and become immortalized as part of the playground yourself, by sponsoring a picket, brick or paver with your name, or your child's drawing engraved on it. What a thrill your children will get, to see that you contributed to making the Adventure Playground a reality – and in 25 years' time, still be showing your contribution to their own children. Visit the website for more information and become part of the adventure today.