

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

To You O Lord, I lift up my soul,

O my God, in you I trust...

*Make me know Your ways, O Lord;
teach me Your paths.*

*Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I will wait all the day.*

Remember, O Lord, Your compassion

and Your loving kindnesses, for they have been from of old.

(Psalm 25:1-2, 4-6)

'We are of such value to God that He came to live among us to guide us home'

(Catherine of Sienna)

Diary Dates

18 Nov:	Year 9/10 Girls Touch Finals
22 Nov:	Year 8 ESSA Exam
25 Nov:	McCarthy's Got Talent
28 Nov:	Year 9 Tea Gardens Excursion
29 Nov:	Information Evening for Parents 2012
30 Nov:	Orientation Day Year 7 2012
1 Dec:	Creative Writing Workshop
5 Dec:	Creative Arts Evening
7 Dec:	Year 8 Friendship Theme Day
8 Dec:	Year 10 Mass 11.30am MHC
8 Dec:	Year 10 Dinner/Dance
9 Dec:	Last day for Year 10
12 Dec:	Award Night 7.00pm
13 Dec:	Motivational Media
16 Dec:	Christmas Theme Mufti Day
19 Dec:	Pupil Free Day
20 Dec:	Pupil Free Day

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Staffing

Following a long preparation and recruitment process, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Tamara Shoemark to the position of full-time Counselling Psychologist at McCarthy. Mrs Shoemark will commence employment from the beginning of next year but will be available casually later this term.

Director's Visit

The Armidale Diocesan Director of Schools, Mr John Mula, visited the school on Wednesday. Mr Mula visited classrooms and spent time speaking with staff and students. It is always a pleasure to have him in the school.

Graduation

The Year 12 2011 Graduation ceremony was held at the Tamworth Town Hall on Monday evening. It was a tremendous occasion for our school community and one that reflected the esteem in which the Class of 2011 is held. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Libby Molony for her dedication to the pastoral care of the students. I would like also to thank Emma, James, Kate and Fletcher and all the SLC members for their courageous and dedicated leadership throughout the year.

Woolies Vouchers

Thank you to all the families who contributed to the Woolies voucher collection for the school. The vouchers have enabled us to purchase resources for the Visual Art and HSIE departments.

Year 10 End-of-Year Arrangements

Year 10 students were given a letter and instructions regarding the arrangements for the end-of-year. The letter outlined the events organised for the remainder of the year and regulations regarding attendance. Please contact the office if you have not received the letter from your child.

New Students and Families 2012

A parent night will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 29 November to provide information for parents new to the school in 2012. On Wednesday 30 November, McCarthy will host an Orientation Day for Year 7 2012 students only.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brittany Coe who was named Northern Inland Academy of Sport's Female Athlete of the Year last weekend. Brittany has had an outstanding year in her chosen sport of touch, the highlight being named in the Under 18 National Youth Squad recently.

Creative Arts Evening

The **McCarthy Catholic College Creative Arts Evening** will be held on Monday 5 December in the school hall. The evening will commence with an art display at 6.00pm. Music recitals by selected students from Years 7 to 12, the McCarthy School Band and ensembles, as well as drama performances will follow from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Recent Clergy Visits

Over the past few weeks we have been very fortunate to have a number of priests visit the school to support us in what we do and to engage with our students. Firstly, Fr Gleeson, along with Tuan Tran, from St Nicholas Parish were present for the Year 11

Twilight Retreat and greatly added to the Spiritual nature of the retreat, speaking to and praying with the students. Fr Roel Llave, from Quirindi, has been a regular visitor joining a number of classes across the year groups for RE lessons. Fathers John McHugh and John MacDonald, from South Tamworth, also visited recently and spent time with a Year 12 Studies of Religion class. We greatly value the time the priests give to our school and look forward to providing the opportunity for students who wish, to go to Reconciliation and to attend Mass on Wednesday 23 November, when next they visit.

St Vinnies

The induction of Vinnies Leaders will take place at the First Friday Mass at St Nicholas Church on 2 December at 7.00am.

John Wallace and Steve and Tania Riley attended our last Vinnies meeting and were able to provide members with information about the history of the St Vincent de Paul Society and of the formation of our St Agnes Conference.

Eucharistic Adoration

Vinnies members, and indeed all staff and students, are asked to consider attending St Nicholas Church on Sunday 20 November of the Feast of Christ the King, to be part of the Eucharistic Adoration which will commence after the 9.30am Mass. Benediction will follow at 12.30pm.

Farewell To Mrs Giovanna McDougall

St Nicholas Parish will join the parish school, St Nicholas, in providing a fitting farewell to retiring Principal Mrs Giovanna McDougall, on Sunday 4 December. Past and present parents, students and teachers are invited to attend Mass at 9.30am, at St Nicholas Church, followed by a picnic and activities in the grounds of St Nicholas School. We look forward to large numbers being there to wish Giovanna a well-earned 'happy retirement'.

Caritas

The crisis in East Africa continues to deepen. Thirteen million drought refugees are surviving in camps run by aid agencies. Nearly two million of these are being assisted by Caritas. All donations to the Caritas East Africa Appeal received before November 30 will be matched dollar for dollar by the Australian Government. To assist Caritas in this vital work phone 1800 024 413 or send a cheque to Caritas Australia's East Africa Appeal. 24-32 O'Riordan At, Alexandria 2015 or to Brian Sullivan, Diocesan Director of Caritas, PO Box 3142 West Tamworth in time to be processed before November 30.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures

Data is being collected from all sectors of the school community for use in the project. Please assist by completing and submitting the Parent Survey that was sent by mail.

Summer Health

Now the hot weather has arrived, it is important to consider a number of related issues. Parental support would be appreciated.

- All students should have a clear plastic bottle, so they can take water (only) to class. Good hydration is necessary; not only for good health, but also good learning.
- Most secondary school students need to use deodorant. Please note that aerosol cans are NOT allowed at school. Tunics and shirts need to be laundered daily.
- Sunscreen should be used. It is available for use at school, but for convenience, students are encouraged to bring their own.
- Hats are available at the school and should be worn on the playground.

Theme of the Week

In Week 4, junior students were reminded of *Exam Skills* whilst the Seniors were guided in maintaining *Balance* in their lives. Whilst their academic studies must be their first priority, it is vital for success that they maintain balance with outside activities. Adequate sleep, healthy food and exercise must also be included in their busy lives.

Bill Gates' Advice for students #2 included:

- Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it opportunity.
- If you mess up it is not your parents' fault. Don't whinge about your mistakes, learn from them.
- Television is not real life. In real life, people have to actually leave the coffee shop and get to their jobs. (*on time!*)
- Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one!

PCYC Program

The Police and Community Youth Club is running a program in Coledale at Granny Munro Park, 4.00pm – 9.00pm every Friday night until Friday 16 December. Supervised fun and safe activities will include sports, BBQ's, discos and movies. Young children must be accompanied by an adult.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

EUROPE 2012

The Europe trip is happening once again in 2012. Full details of the itinerary can be found on the McCarthy Website. We still have a few places for any parents or students who would like to join us. Please contact me on denny123@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

Ms Denise McHugh

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12 2012 HSC Preparation Courses – 2 options

1) The Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Sydney is running intensive **HSC Preparation** courses in a variety of subjects for Year 12 students who want to extend their studies and enhance performance in their HSC year. They extend an invitation to all upcoming Year 12 students to participate in the HSC Preparation program at the University of Sydney throughout 2012.

The next series of courses commence between Monday 9 January 2012 and Monday 16 January 2012. The range of HSC courses assist students in improving performance in all HSC assessment tasks and facilitate a deeper conceptual understanding of course content. Simply visit <http://sydney.edu.au/cce/hsc> to browse the range of courses online.

2) **TSFX Summer School HSC Head Start Lectures** will be held from Friday 6 – Sunday 22 January in Sydney in a wide range of subjects. Copies of the timetable and application details are available in the library or you can go online to: www.tsfx.com.au/nsw

Work Experience

I congratulate the students with the initiative and responsibility in organising work experience and completing the required paperwork. I hope it is a rewarding and enriching experience that will provide career direction and enhance employment prospects.

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

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The 2011 Impact Student Leadership Conference (ISLC) for secondary students was held in Tamworth on 2 November.

Approximately 80 students from 11 secondary schools attended this interactive, hands-on and practical day that aimed to prepare the students for their roles and responsibilities of leadership, encourage them to be leaders who make a difference in their schools, and equip them with the tools to do so. Impact Leadership will see more than 1500 secondary school students from across VIC, SA, NSW, QLD and the ACT over the next two weeks as school attend the ISLC at one of 9 regional and capital city locations; the overall goal that students would leave these conferences with a clear vision, a solid understanding of leadership and dozens of ideas for their time as a student leader.

2012 School Captains George Rixon, Emily Murray, Vice Captains, Lachlan Maloney and Melissa Sweeny attended the conference along with St Vincent de Paul Conference Executive for 2012, Maegan Watts, Leslie Wong, Shannen Lyon and Shae Parsons. All students were enthusiastic about the

topics discussed at the conference and have returned to school energised to put them into practice. Mrs Sparke and Mrs Stuart will conduct a follow up session with the students in the coming weeks.

Mrs Sharon Stuart

WHAT IS YOUR CHILD READING?

Current research states that the more exposure children have to reading both at home and in class, the more likely it is they will achieve at school. The following excerpt from a recent article highlights this point.

“Research by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that children who read with their parents every day, or at least once a week, gained significantly higher scores in exams sat at 15 (years of age) with the highest achieving children still receiving parental support well into their teens. What was important was that parents read books regularly with their children - such as several times a week - and that they talked about what they were reading together.” Teachit.co.uk

Students are given the opportunity to read as widely as possible and the English and Library staff work to expose students to a wide range of texts from graphic novels to classics. Students are encouraged to access the reading material in the library during some lessons and at lunch. Additionally, if you are having difficulty suggesting novels for your children there are list of novels suitable for all age groups on the English website.

With the school holidays looming, perhaps you could try once again to encourage your child to borrow a novel either from the school or town library to read over the holidays. Even simply talking with your child about what they are reading is a step in the right direction.

Mrs Katrina Sullivan – English KLA Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Family Fund Appeal Christmas Hampers

It's time again to donate items that can be placed in Christmas Hampers. They are then delivered to families who would benefit from some extra Christmas cheer. Donations can be left at the school office up until 30 November.

Mango Fundraiser

Thank you to the families who placed orders for mangoes. They will be available for collection in the first week of December. (Actual date is yet to be confirmed).

Trivia Night Fun Raiser

Thank you to friends, family and staff who supported our Trivia Night last week. Over 120 people enjoyed the fun and activities with \$750 being raised on the night.

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.



SINGLETON AND QUIRINDI SHOWS

The Show Team has had a busy period competing recently at Singleton Prime Stock, Quirindi Show, Lismore and the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza. Quirindi Show provided the opportunity to combine a team of experienced and newer students. Always a fun show, this year lived up to expectations with the team managing to squeeze in a birthday party complete with cake, amongst all the cattle showing. Saturday saw the team getting the animals primped, preened and show ring ready. Sunday was all business with the team showing five steers in the Led Only steer classes. Eliza Quinn paraded “Lonestar”, and Kate Spencer showed “Fred”, a pure bred Red Angus steer on loan from Dave Stearman in the Heavyweight Class.



Steph Watt showing “Sparky” at Quirindi Show

Singleton saw us take a team of 7 head for both Hoof and Hook and Led Only classes. Each of the students was able to try out in the parader’s class, and for some this was their first opportunity. Sam Collett, made it through to the finals and placed 2nd overall in his age group. Sam Collett and Eliza Quinn both had their first opportunity to lead an animal for hoof class, although neither of the steers, “Lonestar” or “Diesel” was selected for a place by the judge. “Gypsy”, a Murray Grey heifer, shown on behalf of Mr R. Carey, was highly commended in her class. Later in the day were the Led Only classes and “Sparky” won his Lightweight Led Only class. Sam Collett led “Tramp” to first place in the Heavyweight Led Only class followed by our Simmental cross heifer “Lady” in second. “Tramp” went on to be awarded Champion Led Only Steer and we got to keep him.

Miss Leanne Sjollega

CANTEEN NEWS

Term 4 Special – A bike for Christmas?

We have received a van De Freestyle bike from our supplier *Drury’s Wholesale*. Thank you Patrick York for organising this reward for us. The Canteen group has decided to offer a meal deal for Term 4 to assist in raffling off this reward. Whenever a student or staff member purchases our meal deal they will gain an entry into the bike raffle. The lucky winner will be advised and receive their new bike on the last day of term.

Meal Deal: Chicken or Ham Salad Roll + a bottle of water = \$5.00.

When ordering students/staff need to state Chicken or Ham Meal Deal and we will do the rest.

Can you help?

If you are in a position to volunteer during Term 4, even for one day, we would love to hear from you. We are struggling to find helpers on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you, a family member or friend is interested in interacting with others, learning new skills, engaging with the students and having a laugh, do not hesitate to contact Raelee on 67610856 or baldo@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

EX-STUDENTS NEWS

Tara Simmonds – writer and co-producer of the independent film *The Backpacker*.

Stephanie Halpin – in the gold medal winning Women’s Open side at the Touch World Cup in Scotland.

Erin Chillingworth – appointed to the Netball NSW Development team as a Regional Coordinator.

Mel Allen – was in the Tamworth Open Women’s Hockey squad for the State Championship. Mel and her sister, **Ashley**, also helped organise a hockey fundraiser for a young local cancer patient.

Gordon Guyer – Local Group Coordinator for the Blue Liners Touring Motor Club, which raises money for the Blue Angel Foundation.

Jake Ridley – won the FIM Asian International Supercross Championship in Indonesia, and finished 3rd in the Surya 12 Powercross Championship.

Bede Burke – elected Chairman of the Farmers’ Federation State Egg Committee.

Mitchell Firth – one of 23 pilgrims from the Armidale Diocese who attended the World Youth Day in Spain, as part of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, after he played the didgeridoo for the Pope in Rome earlier this year. He also performed in the Philippines and at World Youth Day in Sydney, and in Port Vila.

Josh Steele – coach of the Farrer Buckley Shield Rugby League team which won through to the 2011 semi finals.

Nick Knight – owner of Dominos Pizza’s largest number of franchises in Australia; was chosen to feature in a series of Australia wide television ads.

Harriett Molony and Maegan Williams – attended the World Youth Day in Spain and are backpacking around Europe.

Amy Vee (Visser) – having studied psychology and acting at Newcastle Uni, has joined (vocals, guitar and keyboard) The Whitlam’s Tim Freedman in his new band, the Idle, for a National tour.

Jessica Mahony – winner of several basketball awards for her season with the South Australian Central ABL competition, including most valuable and best defensive player.

Shaun O’Sullivan – Tamworth Business Chamber manager.

Ainslie Bartlett – raising money for disadvantaged Cambodian school children.