

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

Listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying for he speaks peace to his faithful people.

Psalm 85:8

Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depths of our hearts.

Mother Teresa

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Staff Matters

The Science teaching position left vacant by the resignation of Mrs Carol McHugh has been filled by the appointment of Mr Nicholas Curran. Nicholas is a well-qualified and experienced teacher of Science, including Biology, Physics and Chemistry. Mr Dane Kelly has been appointed to replace Mrs Jan Coyle who will be on leave for 2012.

Award Night

One of the highlights of the school year is the annual Award Night. This night highlights outstanding achievements in all areas of school life. It will be held in the McCarthy Hall, commencing at 7.00pm, on Monday 12 December. Students receiving awards will be notified by mail and it is hoped they will attend with their parents/carers.

Information Night and Orientation Day

The Information Night for parents/carers of students new to the school in 2012 was held on Tuesday evening. The night provided a solid introduction to life at McCarthy. Students entering the school in Year 7 next year attended an orientation day at the school on Wednesday. Students were provided with important information and experiences to create a transition to secondary school that is smooth and positive.

End of Year and Beginning of 2012

School officially finishes for students on Friday 16 December. Staff will attend professional development and planning days on Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December.

Staff members return to work on Friday 27 January 2012. Students in Years 7 and 11 and any other students new to the school commence on Monday 30 January 2012. All other students return to school on Tuesday 31 January 2012.

McCarthy's Got Talent

The winners of the annual McCarthy's Got Talent for 2011 were Lara Northey, Erika Mitchell and Tim Lillyman. Lara performed "Someone Like You" by Adele accompanied by Tim on piano, whilst Erika danced. They received the Inaugural MGT trophy kindly donated by Tamworth Trophies. Encouragement awards were won by Jessica Whitbread and Olivia Halman. Congratulations to all participants for their outstanding performances.

The raffle was won by Will Keogh who is now the proud owner of an electric acoustic guitar which was donated by P n B Music. Gabi Vella and Emmalene Tinson won second and third prize respectfully. We thank the following businesses for their support: Gasweld, Fitness Plus, Narnia Bookshop, Tamworth Ten Pin, Noble Plumbing, Tamworth Blinds and Awnings, Peel Valley Coaches, Kaytering Supplies, North West Locksmiths and Stain Busters.

Thank you to the McCarthy Environmental Council for the organisation and staging of the event. Special thanks are extended to Anna Camilleri and Jerome Studdy.

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.

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

Reconciliation

We recently had the privilege of having Fathers Roel Llave and John McHugh celebrate Mass and offer Reconciliation in our school for students and staff, who wished to attend. Good numbers responded to the invitation to be part of these Sacraments. Mass was

Diary Dates

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
27 Jan:	Staff return to school
30 Jan:	Year 7 & 11 and new students return
31 Jan:	All students return to school

celebrated in the PAC and those present attended with reverence and sincerity. We hope to offer Reconciliation again during Week 9 and look forward to having Mass again, throughout next year.

Vinnies

The induction of Vinnies leaders will be held during the First Friday Mass, at 7.00am at St Nicholas Church on 2 December. We hope that St Agnes Conference members will be present in large numbers.

The main focus for fundraising this term will be the Christmas Appeal. Vinnies members have planned a 'Photo with Santa' opportunity during Week 10 where students and staff can have a photo taken with Santa and Helpers, for \$5. Gold stars, for the Wishing Tree, will be sold during Recess and Lunch from Week 9 and a Barbeque will be held on Friday of Week 10.

Students will be visiting Nazareth House to entertain residents during the Nazareth House Auxiliary afternoon tea on Friday 2 December.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

We offer our prayers and thoughts to Mitchell and Patrick Goodwin and their family following the death of their grandfather.

Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures

The student surveys have been completed and we look forward to analysing the resulting data. Mrs Kylie Pursche has been appointed by Hunter New England Health to work in our school regularly for the term of the project.

Head Lice

There have been a number of cases of head lice reported by students in different years. Please inspect your child's hair regularly for nits and eggs. Long hair should be tied back and hats should not be shared. For information on treatment please visit the following site: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp>

Grandparenting Support Group

The next Grandies Meeting will be Christmas Afternoon Tea at the Tamworth Community Centre on Monday 5 December at 1.00pm.

Theme of the Week

Responsibility is one of the four words on our Code of Conduct. Students were reminded that while we are not responsible for everything that happens to us in life, we are certainly responsible for our reactions, and that we must accept ownership of our actions and their consequences.

In Week 8 we discussed how *now* is a good time to test your limits, support a cause, explore positive and interesting issues on line, and to stick together, revelling in the power of the team.

'The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self respect springs' Joan Didion (writer, journalist)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Family Fund Appeal Christmas Hampers

Thank you to those McCarthy families who generously gave to the Christmas Hamper Appeal. The hampers will be distributed to families who will benefit from some extra Christmas cheer.

Mango Fundraiser

Thank you to the families who placed orders for mangoes. They will be available for collection on Wednesday 7 December from the school.

Thank You

A big thank you to all parents, friends and teachers who have been involved in the McCarthy Association meetings and activities throughout 2011.

In 2012 we look forward to welcoming new members. Let's enjoy the holiday season and come back to new learning opportunities, fun, social gatherings, and above all, joining together to support and encourage the McCarthy Catholic College school community.



CAREERS NEWS

Jobs Jobs Jobs

As well as jobs for school leavers that are advertised in the local newspaper, I have had employers phone me about apprenticeships, traineeships, full-time jobs, gap-year jobs and part-time jobs for current students. Our school has a good name and our students have built up good reputations with local employers. However, it is very frustrating when jobs are available and no one seems to want to apply.

For students, and for parents of students seeking jobs, please check CareersAlert emails, notices in Homeclass and the Careers Noticeboards at school.

Next year there will be a new approach and I will be using the Careers page on Moodle with a separate section on job vacancies and how to apply eg resumes, cover letters. Watch this space...

HSC Results and ATARs

Once these are known, our Year 12 students are welcome to come to the school to share the good news with their teachers and also to seek advice if the results are not what they hoped. There are many paths for students to get where they want to go - they just need a tour guide occasionally to help find the right direction. I will be available at school and via email to offer help and advice to parents and students after December 14 and 15.

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

LITERACY NEWS

A notice for the parents of Year 8 students:

In Week 6, all Year 8 students were given a letter to take home which provided specific details about the literacy initiative we have been focusing on at McCarthy Catholic College. By now you should have received this letter and hopefully had a chance to speak to your son or daughter about the work they have been doing in the areas of writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Recently, your son or daughter completed a series of activities which has provided details of individual students' specific literacy skills. Last week, this work was returned, with a clear feedback sheet attached.

We hope that you and your child have had some time to discuss the feedback sheet and have also explored the literacy resources on Moodle. Parents can access these resources with the username and password "parent".

If you have any questions regarding the literacy program, or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at g.downes@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au or on 67610800.

Mrs Gill Downes (Literacy Support)

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

YEAR 11 FOOD TECHNOLOGY EXCURSION

At 5.00am on Tuesday 8 November, the Year 11/12 Food Technology students travelled to Peel Valley Dairy Farm.

The first session was to venture into the dairy pit and observe the cows being milked. After the milking process, we were shown the new calves and some of us had the opportunity to hand feed them using a bottle. Morning tea arrived at 8.00am, where we sat and enjoyed cake pops and biscuits.

We were soon taken into a small building where the milk is processed. Each of us had to don on a hair net and a plastic apron and were then ready to work and experience the process. Olivia Dillon labelled bottles with the expiry date. Melissa Hamilton, Teagan Bielefeld, Kayla Urquhart-Smith and Emily Strudwick were on the turning table, making sure the lids were tight and the bottles correctly labelled and clean. Harrison Hunt worked double time packing the bottles into crates. Phoebe Carolan, Rebecca Stirling and Courtney Stassen also experienced the process of making flavoured milk by hand.

The excursion has given our class a great insight into seeing how milk is processed – invaluable for our HSC Food Technology Course. On behalf of our Year 12 Food Technology, I would like to thank Mrs Milek and Mrs O'Neill for taking us on the excursion to Peel Valley Milk. Year 12 Food Technology,

together with Mrs Milek and Mrs O'Neil would like to extend a big thank you to Mr Malcolm Rose and his Peel Valley staff members for allowing us to come to the Peel Valley Farm and experience this process first hand.

Shannen Lyon



GUWAALII GAVEL CLUB



Yaama, Yamandaay

McCarthy Catholic College Indigenous and Non Indigenous students, with the guided support of members of the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Tamworth Toastmasters, have been involved in a Public Speaking Program called "Guwaalii" (which means "speak" in Gamillaroi) Gavel Club. Students successfully completed components of the Gavel Club Competent Communications Course and have made outstanding progress with their public speaking. The students have grown with confidence, from not wanting to read aloud in class to now being the first to read; from not wanting to say a speech in class to getting up at a major Tamworth Community Event (Relay for Life) and addressing the community. These feats, one no more important than the other, have shown the benefits students have received from participating in this course.

The support given by the volunteers from Tamworth Toastmasters; Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council; and MCC Staff, Julian Rice and Kerry Adams; has been a big part of the success of this program.

The graduation night was a huge success and I would like to commend the students for the confidence and courage they showed on the night. Ian McEachern was one of the co-founders of this program and the decision was made that we would, in his

honour, name the annual award after him. Congratulations to Kimberly Taggart who received the inaugural *Ian McEachern Award*. Initially, Kim refused to get up and read, and hated reading in class, but as the program progressed she has become a confident young speaker and was a very deserving recipient of the award. All the students should be commended; they have all grown in confidence and have gained vital skills that will assist them in their education and future career pathways.

The program will re-commence in Term 2, 2012 for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students from Years 7 to 11. I look forward to future students' participation to have some fun and learn new skills.

McCarthy Catholic College was the pilot school for this program and I am pleased to say that from the success of the MCC 2011 "Guwaalii" Gavel Course, other schools now want to run this program in their schools.

Yaalu

Mrs Jodie Herden - AEW

LEGAL STUDIES EXCURSION

Twenty-three senior Legal Studies students ventured to Sydney on 16 November for a 3 day excursion to obtain valuable courtroom experience. As well as seeing local, district and Supreme Court cases the students visited Maitland Gaol, the Jewish Holocaust Museum and the Police and Justice Museum. The students are to be congratulated for their excellent behaviour and the mature way in which they approached their visits.

Mrs Louise Vella – HSIE Coordinator



SPORT

Year 9/10 Girls Touch Finals

After winning the Years' 9/10 Regional Touch championships in Tamworth, the team travelled to the State Final at Penrith on 17 and 18 November.

The girls played Kiama, Orange, and Blakehurst to finish second in their pool. They advanced to the quarter-finals where they were defeated by Hunter Sports High School 7 - 1. Hunter went on to win the final 6 - 1.

Congratulations to Paige Berthold, Brittany Coe, Chloe Coe, Lizzy Doherty, Isobel Hazell, Brodii Ingram, Bridget Kerrigan, Molly Lyden, Cara Paterson, Ainsley Thornberry and Taylah Vine who finished in the top eight teams of the state.

Thank you to Mrs Kim Coe who coached the team. She continues to be generous with her time and support of Touch at McCarthy and to Mr Wayne Northey who drove the bus and assisted with the team.

Kieran Gaskin

Congratulations to Kieran Gaskin who placed third in the 2011 Australian Dirt Track Championships held in Somersby recently. Kieran competed in the 250cc junior category.

Under 19 Country North Cricket

Congratulations to Luke Patterson and George Rixon on their selection recently in the NSWCCC Under 19 Country North Cricket team. The boys will now go on to NSWCCC selection trials at Sydney in February 2012.