

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,



Prayer

*Come, long-awaited Lord and Saviour, Jesus.
Bring to us a hunger for peace: peace in the world,
peace in our homes and peace in our hearts.
Amen*

The Meaning of "Advent"

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might

be reconciled to God.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. It is celebrated as a time of joy and happiness as we await the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Advent is a time for prayerful reflection, a time to be particularly alert to the signs of God's grace. We might ask ourselves in what specific ways are we being called to change our lives?

It is a time for generous good works in which our kindness and care for others replaces excessive self-absorption and concern. Openheartedness in doing good works, creates room for Christ's presence.

Diary Dates

16 Dec: Christmas Theme Mufti Day
19 Dec: Pupil Free Day
20 Dec: Pupil Free Day
20 Dec: Last day for staff
27 Jan: Staff return to school
30 Jan: Year 7 & 11 and new students return
31 Jan: All students return to school

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Thankyou

Thank you to all families for your ongoing commitment to and support of McCarthy. On behalf of the staff, I wish all the families who are finishing their time at McCarthy this year all the best and thank you for your partnership in the education of your children. I look forward to continuing the journey with those returning in 2012.

Award Night

On Monday evening the College community gathered for one of the major events of the school calendar, the annual Award Night. The evening highlighted the extraordinary gifts and talents of students and the dedication so many have to their academic and other pursuits. Congratulations are extended to all awardees, along with our gratitude to all who contributed and attended.

Creative Arts Evening

The Creative Arts Evening was held on Monday 5 December in the College Hall. It was a very entertaining event and one which, again, highlighted the tremendous talent in the school community. Thank you to the students and staff who participated and to the families who attended.

Staff Matters

This week we bid farewell to Mr Charlie James, Mrs Fiona James, Mr Cameron Thornton and Mr Blake Hamilton. We thank each one for their contribution to the school and wish them well for the future. Mrs Jan Coyle and Miss Melissa Davis will be on leave in 2012. Melissa will be completing a teacher exchange in Canada. We look forward to their return in 2013.

Miss Jolene Spreadborough will be celebrating her marriage to Nicholas on New Year's Eve. We wish them both happiness and God's blessing on the day and for their future life together.

2012

The 2012 school year commences for staff on Friday 27 January. Year 7 and Year 11 students, and any other students new to the school, commence on Monday 30 January. All other students return on Tuesday 31 January. Please note that the Country Music Festival concludes on Saturday 28 January.

Christmas Blessings

May God bless you all over the Christmas Season and bring you home safely after a relaxing break. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As another year comes to an end, it is worthwhile to acknowledge the hard work of many people in the area of Religious Education. A great number of students achieved admirable results in Religious Education and Studies of Religion this year and it is apparent that many students have applied themselves with diligence and interest to these subjects. Thanks must go to the eighteen teachers who worked in the RE Department this year for their hard work and dedication. We are also very grateful to the students and staff who attended retreats and supported us by contributing to the many Masses and para-liturgies which were held this year. We are particularly grateful to the clergy for celebrating Masses and their willingness to work with students in our school.

Support of Charities

This has been another successful year in the area of fundraising for charities. Overall we have raised around \$30,000. Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and Children's Mission have been the recipients of these funds. Our school community is certainly true to the 'service' component of the school motto.

We wish all parents, students and staff a very happy and holy Christmas and we encourage all to make time for Jesus in the busyness of the Season.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**Uniform**

There have been a number of issues lately relating to the school uniform. In particular, the following need to be clarified for 2012.

Canvas slip on shoes and Dunlop Volleys are NOT ALLOWED at McCarthy.

Skate shoes are NOT acceptable - either as school shoes or as sports shoes.

Sports shoes must be predominantly white, sturdy and able to be firmly laced.

School shoes must be black leather, lace up shoes. (Only Year 12 girls are able to wear Doc Marten's) – they will be phased out completely for 2013.

Girls' uniforms should be below the knee.

Please support us by insisting that your child adheres to the uniform policy.

2011 has been another very busy year for all in the McCarthy Catholic College community.

The Catholic ethos of McCarthy Catholic College has been a focus in many ways in 2011. Parents, staff and students were surveyed in Term 2 and the results outlined a snapshot of life at the College. While there are always areas for improvement, the overwhelming response was positive, suggesting that as a community, McCarthy Catholic College not only strives to authentically live its mission, but is actively committed to caring for all.

I wish all McCarthy families a happy and holy Christmas and look forward to working with you again in 2012.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE**Condolences**

We offer our prayers and thoughts to Alex Wood, Joel and Elizabeth Berthaly and their families following the deaths of their grandfathers.

Vaccinations

The last vaccinations were completed.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received Certificates of Achievement:

Darcy Doyle (Year 7), Megan Murphy, Taylor McAlister (Year 8), Priyanka Pinto, Kimberly Bruccoleri (Year 9), Claire Rice (Year 10), Caitlin Baxter, Peter McGuirk, Holly Perryman, Lachlan Maloney, Kieran MacRae and Josephine Cannon (Year 11).

Special congratulations to the recipients of a Principal's Award:

Gabrielle Vella (Year 7), Sarah Croake, Darcy Flynn (Year 8), Jerome study, (Year 10) Lesley Wong, George Rixon, Taylor Day, Shae Parsons (Year 11), Fletcher Davies, James Forsyth, Emma Hatfield, Kate Lumber and Gemma Myers.

Special Events

Year 9 have returned from a fabulous excursion to Tea Gardens where they challenged themselves and made new friends within the group.

Year 7 have had a training session to become buddies for the 2012 Year 7 students and enjoyed a trivia afternoon.

Year 8 participated in a Friendship day where they discussed the qualities of good friends and considered their own relationships. They also had a trivia afternoon.

Year 10 looked amazing as they attended their Dinner/Dance.

Many thanks to the Year Coordinators and all other staff involved for their efforts and support.

Theme of the Week

We have finished the year with the Spirit of Giving and Christmas themes. I would like to thank the members of St Vincent de Paul and of our McCarthy community for their wonderful generosity in donating gifts (and time) for the Christmas Hampers.

I wish all our families a healthy and joyous Christmas.

'You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give' Kahlil Gibran (poet, artist, writer)

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.

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

Year 12

This week sees another milestone for Year 12 students with the release of HSC results and ATARs for those receiving them. This can be an exciting time for some and for others the wait has been nerve-wracking. Once the ATARs are known, students will experience a range of emotions – joy, disappointment if the ATAR is lower than hoped for or expected, exhilaration if it is much higher than anticipated or relief that the wait is over. It is then another wait until Main Round offers are made on 18 January.

Students are invited to share their good and not-so good news with the school, and I especially invite students who are very disappointed (and their parents) to contact me at school or via email to discuss options if university was the desired goal and now the ATAR means that this may not happen.

There is always a range of options available depending on the career or course the student wants to do. Sometimes it might involve a roundabout route, but most students will get there in the end. I have a list of possible pathways to university when it seems like going to university will not become a reality. Staff will be here at school to celebrate with, assist and support students as they receive their results.

McCarthy Careers Year 12 2011 on Facebook

I have created a page on Facebook for the current Year 12 students so I can easily pass on details of courses, job vacancies, ATAR information from UAC and so on. Year 12 2011 are invited to go to Facebook, search for **McCarthy Careers Year 12 2011** and click on LIKE. This will continue until mid-2012 as, based on past years, I will get requests from employers for school leavers to fill jobs and scholarships will still arrive as will information on Open Days and other relevant activities.

It has been set up so that I am not friends with any student and cannot see their Facebook pages. It is there to provide information and make it available to as many students as possible. I will continue to send CareersAlert emails and hopefully the two will work together to provide career-related information to those it will most benefit.

Year 9 ABC Childcare Adopt a School Project

Throughout the year, seven Year 9 girls have voluntarily participated in a project where they visited ABC Childcare Centre in Hercules Street on Tuesday mornings to get an insight into careers in childcare. I would like to thank Careers Network and ABC for their assistance in this program.

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

SHOW TEAM

The Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza at Scone finished the show year on a high with 'Tram' bringing home 'Grand Champion Middleweight' and 'Best Purebred Exhibit' on the Hoof, as well as 'Reserve Champion Middle Weight Carcase'. Freckles won 'Reserve Champion Lightweight' on the Hoof.

On behalf of the McCarthy Show Team I would like to thank Rob Maxwell, Chris Law, Nev Farrawell, Longford Angus, David Stearman and Graham Jordan for their support throughout the year.

Miss Leanne Sjollema – Agriculture Teacher

Mass Times

St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth

St Nicholas Church

Saturday 24	Children's Mass	6.00pm
Saturday 24	Midnight Mass	
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
No Evening Mass on Christmas Day		

St Mary's Church

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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St Michael's Catholic Community Church

Kootingal

Saturday 24	Christmas Eve Mass	6.30pm
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Dungowan

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	8.30am
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Nundle

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	10.00am
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St Patrick's Parish West Tamworth

Saturday 24	Children's Mass	5.30pm
Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am

St Edward's Parish South Tamworth

Mary Help of Christians

Saturday 24	Children's Mass	6.00pm
Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	10.00pm
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am
No Evening Mass Christmas Day		

St Brigid's Parish Quirindi

Quirindi

Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am

Willow Tree

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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St Michael's Parish Manilla

Manilla

Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
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Attunga

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
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SPORT**Half Blue Awards**

There are three team recipients of the Sporting Half Blue Award for 2011:

Open A Division McCarthy Girls' Hockey Team. This team won the Gold medal at the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Championships in Tamworth. Lauren Ayres, Georgia Cooper, Madeline Doyle, Morgan Farmilo, Isobel Hazell, Lauren MacRae, Caitlin McHugh, Ashley Ninness, Bronte Pennefather, Shannan Purdy, Maegan Watts, Libby McHugh and Samantha Howard.

McCarthy Junior Girls' Triathlon Team. This team won the Gold medal at the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Championships in Penrith. Ellie Camilleri, Bronte Ellicot and Sophie Heeney.

McCarthy Girls' Tennis Team. This team won the Gold medal at the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Championships in Bathurst. Emma Barnes, Nicolette Myers, Eliza Richards, Gemma Campbell and Zoe Martin.

McCarthy has been particularly successful this year in that we have won New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges championships in three sports. We congratulate these teams on their achievement and thank them for their efforts.

Individual Half Blue Awards

Isaac Searant

Isaac competed in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Diving event at Homebush in May, winning the Gold medal in the 16 years age group.

Sophie Heeney

Sophie was successful in gaining two individual Half Blues. The first was for winning a Bronze medal in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges 14 years Cross Country. The second award is for athletics. Sophie won a Bronze medal in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges 14 year girls' 1500 metre event.

Blue Awards

Brittany Coe

Brittany was selected in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Under 15 years Touch Football Team for the fourth consecutive year; an outstanding achievement. Brittany was named captain of the team at the New South Wales All Schools Championships. Further honours came her way when she was selected in the New South Wales All Schools Team for the second consecutive year. New South Wales All Schools representation is the highest honour a student in New South Wales can attain in this sport.

Dana Constable

Dana was selected in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Under 16 years Hockey Team. At the New South Wales All Schools' Carnival, Dana was selected to represent the All Schools' Team in the Australian Titles. Unfortunately, injury prevented Dana from competing at this level, however she has another year in the 16 years age group and we wish her well for selection in 2012.

Christopher Ninness

Christopher represented the New South Wales Talented Athlete Program at the New South Wales Under 16 All Schools Hockey Trials. From there, Chris was selected to represent in the All Schools' No 2 team. We congratulate Chris for his achievement and wish him well for future selection in this age group next year.

Ashley Ninness

Ashley was selected in the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges Open Girls' Hockey Team for the second consecutive year. Subsequently, Ashley was selected to participate in the New South Wales All Schools' Carnival and, for the second year running, she was selected in the New South Wales All Schools' representative team; an excellent achievement.

Pierre de Coubertin Award

This award celebrates the Olympic spirit and the ideals of sport and sportsmanship. The Pierre de Coubertin Award is named after the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

The award recognises senior secondary students who demonstrate the values which are consistent within the Olympic movement and sporting endeavour.

This year the award was presented to Ashley Nines. Ashley has represented NSW Combined Catholic Colleges and New South Wales All Schools for hockey, as well as participating in sporting carnivals and other sporting teams.

The leadership, sportsmanship and respect that she displays to her fellow players, coaches and officials, reflect what this award is all about.