

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

'We ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father, to give us the Spirit who will make us wise and reveal God to us so that we will know him.

We ask that our minds be opened to see His light, so that we will know what is the hope to which He has called us, how rich are the wonderful blessings He promises His people, and how very great is His power to work in us who believe".

St Paul – Ephesians 1:17-19

Reflection

- *The Catholic School should be a community whose aim is the transmission of values for living. Its work is seen as promoting a faith-relationship with Christ in whom all Christian values have their inspiration.*
- *Faith is principally assimilated through contact with people whose daily life bears witness to it. Christian faith is born and grows inside a community.*

(The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education-The Catholic School.)

Please note: this is the only paper copy of the Newsletter that will be distributed unless a request is made through the office. The Newsletter (and all past Newsletters) is available on the College website.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

The 2012 school year began with the heart-wrenching news of the sudden death of Mr Julian Rice. Julian was a loved and respected teacher, colleague and friend in our school community. He was an extraordinary man, having dedicated many years of his working life as a volunteer teacher in Papua New Guinea and remote North-Western Western Australia. Julian moved to Tamworth with his wife Marie and three children (Christian, Claire and Evan) in 2009. He was a very intelligent and compassionate man who had a deep concern for social justice. Julian will be missed.

I would like to thank staff; students and parents, including the Board and Association; and the broader community for the generous support and condolences offered to the Rice family and Julian's friends and colleagues.

Welcome

Welcome back to the new school year to all our faithful families. A special welcome is extended to all our new families. The full range of extra and co-curricular activities will become available over the coming weeks and I encourage students to take up the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that many of these activities offer, which will be of long term benefit. We look forward to working with families to provide an excellent education deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition.

Staff News

There have been a number of staff changes for 2012. New appointments are as follows:

Mr Nicholas Curran - Sciences

Miss Kate Stroud – Science, Technology and Mathematics

Mrs Tamara Shoemark – Counsellor

Mr Vice Filo-Carroll – English, HSIE and Religious Education (on exchange from Canada, replacing Miss Melissa Davis)

Mr Dane Kelly – Mathematics (replacing Mrs Jan Coyle who is taking 12 months leave)

Mrs Jane Sleeman – PDHPE, CFS and Religious Education (replacing Mrs Ashleigh Jones who is on Maternity Leave)

Mr Fletcher Davies and Mr Jed Trow – Temporary IT Support for 2012

We also welcome Mrs Melissa Lees back from Maternity Leave. Mrs Lees will be working in a job-share arrangement with Mr Slattery this year.

Mrs Margaret Banson and Mrs Suzanne Perfrement are also returning to full-time employment.

Ms Jolene Spreadborough was married during the holidays and is now Mrs Jolene Faint.

We congratulate Jolene and Nicholas and wish them all the best for the future.

HSC Results

The school community congratulates the Class of 2011 on their HSC results. The dux (Kate Lumber) was recognised at the school assembly this week, where she was presented with the Sr Patricia Rowe award for Dux 2011.

Diary Dates

9 Feb:	Ordination of Bishop Elect Kennedy
12 Feb:	Hospitality Seaworld Excursion
13 Feb:	Welcome Year 7 BBQ 6pm
15 Feb:	Year 8 Author visit
16 Feb:	Senior Defence Force visit
17 Feb:	Year 12 English "Belonging" Day
21 Feb:	Shrove Tuesday
21 Feb:	Regional University Roadshow
21 Feb:	Board & Association Meetings
22 Feb:	Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass
23 Feb:	Twilight Swimming Carnival – Scully
24 Feb:	Non-school Day
2 March:	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
3 March:	Open Day
12 March:	Year 7 & 10 Vaccinations
13 March:	Warraymalaya Retreat
16 March:	Moonbi Horse Sports
16 March:	Tamworth Show



Year 7 Welcome Barbeque

The McCarthy staff warmly invites Year 7 students and their families to a Welcome Barbeque at the school on Monday 13 February from 6.00pm – 7.30pm. It is a casual event that enables parents to meet some of the teachers who will be working with their children this year.

McCarthy Executive Staff for 2012

Principal:	Mrs Kate Rayment
Assistant Principal:	Mrs Sally Sparke
Teaching & Learning Coordinator:	Ms Denise McHugh
Religious Education Coordinators:	Mrs Cate Allen, Mrs Carol Wheaton
Pastoral Care Coordinator:	Mrs Julie McGregor
Student Management Coordinator:	Mrs Sharon Stuart

Round 1 Enrolments and Open Day

Round 1 will commence this term for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 2013 from our Catholic feeder schools. **Applications will close on Thursday 5 April** and interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2. **Open Day** will be held on **Saturday 3 March** from 10.00am until 1.00pm. Applications for students from non-feeder schools will close **Friday 29 June**, with interviews being held in Term 3.

Swimming Carnival and Day In Lieu

Please note that the College Swimming Carnival will be held at the Scully Pool from 2.00pm – 8.00pm on Thursday 23 February. The following day, Friday 24 February, will be a non-school day. The school will **not be open** on that day.

College Board

If any parent is interested in nominating for a place on the College Board, please contact the school by Tuesday 15 February.

Dropping Off & Picking Up Students

Those parents who pick up their children **after** school are asked to drive along the road to the back of the Hall and park on this road for the pick up. The car park becomes congested and dangerous if cars wait in the middle of the car park. It is important that the 10km/hr speed limit in the school grounds be followed.

The dropping off in the morning and the pick up of students **before** 3.00pm may still take place in front of the office.

Parents are asked to please NOT pick up students in the carpark or the bus bay after 3.00pm.



Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool can be accessed on Wednesdays between 12.30pm and 1.30pm via the bottom carpark. It can be found at the top of the stairs, to the left (facing Tribe Street). Please follow the signs.

Hours of School & Supervision

The playground will be supervised from 8.20am. School hours are 8.40am – 3.00pm. After school, students will be supervised in the bus bay area until the last bus leaves.

Absentees

Government regulations require that schools document all student absences with reasons eg. illness, approved leave etc. Please provide the school with an explanation of your child's absence **within 7 days** by way of a letter upon their return or a phone call on the day of their absence. Follow up letters will be forwarded to parents/guardians seeking explanation if this has not been provided. **It is very important that students attend Homeclass for roll marking or sign in via the office if they are late to school (after 8.40am).**



Students Late For School

The bell for the beginning of school goes at 8.40am. Students who arrive after this time are required to complete an entry in the late book in the office. Parents need to bring late students to the office and sign the book or else provide the student with a note. Letters will be posted home for unexplained lateness or absences.

Early Departure

Parents are required to sign for students who are leaving the school before the normal finishing time of 3.00pm. This also applies if the student is returning to school later in the day.

Pedestrian Entry and Exit

Students who walk to or from school must use either the Children's Crossing in Tribe Street or the designated section of Johnston Street at the end of the oval.



Student and Family Information Update Form

The Student and Family Information Update Form will be posted home to families soon. Please complete and return it to the office.

Student Planners

All students have been issued with a 2012 Student Planner. These Planners contain important information about the school and expectations along with excellent support material to assist students plan and manage their learning. They are to be used for communication between home and class teachers and as a record of aspects of the student's academic program. Please check and sign each child's planner at least weekly and encourage them to use this resource effectively.

Illness at School

Students are reminded that when they fall ill at school, they are to inform their teacher and report to the office, where the sick bay is located. Office staff will assess students and contact parents if necessary. Students are asked **NOT** to phone their parents as this is the legal responsibility of the school.

Distribution of Newsletter

Newsletters are available on the McCarthy website (www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au) on Day 9 (every second Thursday) of the timetable. **A paper copy of the Newsletter is available to those families who require it by contacting Debra Wade in the office.** Alternatively, you can have the Newsletter emailed each fortnight. Please notify the office of your email address if you would like to utilise this service.

Change of Student Details

It is imperative that the office be advised about any change of detail from last year, such as change in family situation, address, workplace, phone numbers – mobile and landline for home and work.

Medication

Please be aware the school office staff cannot administer pain medication.

Tamworth Buslines on Facebook and Twitter

Tamworth Buslines is offering parent/guardians the opportunity to follow them on Facebook and Twitter. Parents will be able to receive information directly about such things as diversions, run changes due to flooding or other events. This is a good way to quickly communicate with a lot of people if it is required.

The facebook page is: Tamworth Buslines – you need to "Like It", and or follow them on twitter@TamBuslines.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Liturgies and Masses**

The beginning of our school year, sadly, commenced with a Liturgy of the Word to remember our friend and colleague Julian Rice. It was a fitting way to unite in memory of a much loved and respected workmate.

All students attended a para-litury in the hall to mark the beginning of the school year. The theme was 'Though Many We are One' as we recognised that our school community is comprised of people from many places and we combine to make the one special community that we are.

The first Whole School Mass will be held on Ash Wednesday in the four Churches across Tamworth. Mass will be held at 11.30am and all parents and friends are most welcome to join us.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It is important as we begin the school year for 2011 to make it clear that McCarthy values and takes considerable pride in the school uniform. The requirements for both juniors and seniors are clearly outlined in the Student Planners and students are required to adhere to these requirements. Any breaches of uniform policy will be followed up and interviews may be required for persistent breaches. If it is not possible for your child to be in the correct uniform on a particular occasion, could you please provide a note for your child.

McCarthy is a VERY busy place in the afternoons. In light of this could I remind all parents that after school pickups are at the back on the hall. No student should be being picked up at the front of the office after 3.00pm. This helps alleviate the traffic jam in the carpark and safety concerns.

Thank you to all families who supported the Woolies Earn and Learn program by collecting vouchers. We purchased leather aprons for the Art Department and resources for the HSIE Department.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE**Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care team work to promote and nurture the physical, social, emotional and intellectual well-being of students, staff and parents. Please keep us informed of any health, social, financial and/or family issues that may affect your child's learning or general well-being. Such information is treated with discretion and allows us to provide appropriate support. You are encouraged to contact us with any concerns you may have regarding your child at McCarthy. Please note that due to teaching, duties and interviews it is sometimes difficult to return calls immediately. It would be appreciated if you could inform the receptionist if a matter is urgent. For non-urgent matters please consider emails.

I am excited to welcome Mrs Tamara Shoemark to McCarthy in the position of Counsellor. Tamara is a psychologist and will be providing testing and counselling as well as being involved in extra-curricular activities and programs.

The 2012 Pastoral Care team is:

Mrs Julie McGregor juliemcg@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Pastoral Care Coordinator

Mrs Libby Molony libby@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 7 Coordinator

Mr Dan Mitchell d.mitchell@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 8 Coordinator

Mrs Fiona O'Neill fiona@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 9 Coordinator

Mr Bernie Williams b.williams@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 10 Coordinator

Mr Luke Adams l.adams@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 11 Coordinator

Mrs Sharon Stuart s.stuart@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Year 12 Coordinator

Mrs Tamara Shoemark tamara.shoemark@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au Counsellor

Welcome

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Year 7 students and the following new students:

Danielle Cullen, Matilda Davies, Bree Hemmings, Bryce Keating, Zoe Mathews, Phoebe Mitchell, Sabrina Ninness-Rooke, Blake Sissons (Year 8)

Tara Filo-Carroll, Matthew Javier, Nikaela Peters, Sophie Soles, Courtney Stevens, Thomas Trehy (Year 9)

Ashleigh McCabe, Brianna Smith, Jennifer Supple, Malarnie Zell (Year 10)

Brandon Clark, Emma Cummins, Laura Heuston, Jessica Keating, Taryn Peters, Alexandra Prowse, Grena Sancho, Thomas Sanson, Thomas Supple (Year 11)

Tyler Filo-Carroll (Year 12).

Welcome also to the families who are joining the McCarthy community. We look forward to meeting you and working with you.

Condolences

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bradley Goodridge and his family following the death of his grandmother.

Vaccinations

The first of the 2012 vaccinations will take place on 12 March.

Year 7: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough); Hepatitis B; Chickenpox; Human Papilloma Virus (HPV – Cervical Cancer – girls only)

Year 10: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Information packs will be sent home. Please read and carefully complete ALL required sections of the permission forms which are to be returned to Homeclass teachers.

Theme for the Week

Each week we have a theme that is designed to assist the students in their development. “A Good Start” presented four areas of social and emotional learning which help all students to be successful, ie to achieve the best they can.

Organisation: good organisation is an essential component of secondary students’ academic success. All students have been issued with a 2012 Planner. We encourage you to regularly check and sign the planner and to use it to communicate with teachers. Students are also issued with a Term Calendar to use at home. This is an important tool in the management of time with completion of tasks and study. Students should be punctual, in correct uniform and have all requirements for that day.

Getting Along: developing positive relationships with staff and other students, complying with the Code of Conduct and meeting class expectations.

Confidence: asking questions, providing answers and opinions in class. All students are encouraged to seek assistance when required.

Persistence: developing good work habits in class and at home.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Welcome back to 2012, I hope everyone is refreshed and ready for a big school year.

We are very proud of our 2011 HSC graduates who achieved very sound results and who have contacted us about their university courses, apprenticeships and TAFE options. Here are but a few:

Bodhi Betts	Uni of Wollongong	B Engineering (Materials)
Alex Clarke	Macquarie Uni	B Business Administration
Scott Domis	UTS	B Science (Biotechnology/Med Science/Biomedical Science)
Adam Drew	UNSW	B Industrial Design
Matt Hobson	UNE	B Sports and Exercise Science
Kate Lumber	UNE	B Rural Science
Josh McDonald	U Canberra	B Building & Construction Management
Libby McHugh	UWS	B Business and Commerce (Property)
Brittany Rae	Newcastle	B Biomedical Science
Shayne Spencer	SCU	B Contemporary Music
Laura Swanborough	CSU	B Nursing
James Forsyth	UNE	B Arts/Teaching (Economics)
Shannan Purdy	Newcastle	B Social Science
Morgan Farmillo	U Canberra	B Nursing (Paramedics)
Fletcher Davies:	UNE	B Arts/Teaching
Jed Trow	UNE	B Computer Science

So we begin a new academic year.....

What can students do to become the best they can at McCarthy Catholic College? I believe that the following points summarise the attributes of a successful student at MCC.

Successful students:

- put study first;
- set goals;
- are consistent in their application;
- are well organised (including having a tidy and clear working space/desk as well as an organised and neat workbook or folder);

- balance a range of interests with school and family life;
- work on all their subjects – not just their favourites;
- adjust to different teachers;
- reflect on and analyse their own performance;
- never say “I have no homework” - read, make study cards, summarise notes, complete practice tests/exams;
- take responsibility for their learning;
- attend school every day except when sick.

Ms Denise McHugh – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Welcome to all families to Term 1 2012 from the McCarthy Association. A special welcome to all new parents/guardians. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 February. We look forward to seeing you for a fun filled evening of camaraderie and friendship in parenting. Please join us at 7.00pm in the school staffroom (located at the end of the administration block). To keep up to date on topics covered at our monthly meetings please go to www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au and click on McCarthy Parent Association and follow the links to meetings.

CAREERS NEWS

Congratulations to over sixty Year 12 students who have received university offers from the Early, Main and Late Rounds. Some are going to university this month and I wish them well as they embark on the next phase of their academic life while others are taking a gap year to work or travel before going to university in 2013.

Defence Technical Scholarships (DTS)

This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students intending to pursue an ADF general entry technical trade career after completing Year 12. The DTS rewards technically-savvy students for staying on at school and enrolling in specific subjects. Year 11 recipients will receive \$2000 and Year 12 students will receive \$3000. Although there is no obligation to join the Navy, Army or Air Force after finishing school, students will be required to tell us why they are interested in an ADF technical trade career as part of the selection process.

To find out about eligibility and how to apply, see Mrs Barrett or go online (<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/technicalscholarship/>) and then see Mrs Barrett, who has to submit the applications as the DTS school representative.

Wonderful opportunities

Last December, Rebecca Riley in Year 12 heard in the daily notices about an opportunity to work with Tamworth Regional Council during the Country Music Festival. She applied and was chosen to participate in this inaugural program. Rebecca conducted surveys, worked on festival websites and social networks and did a variety of media, marketing and administrative duties. She attended media launches and met country music stars, publicists, music producers and event managers. As a result, Rebecca has now changed her career goals and has an impressive experience to include in her resume.

I encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities available because it may just change their life.

Career visits in Term 1

- Tuesday 20 February 12.30pm – 1.15pm Kenvale College of Hospitality and Event Management Brianna Pearson (Year 12 students 2011) won a Kenvale College scholarship last year)
- Thursday 16 February – Defence Force visit 12.30pm – 1.15pm
- Tuesday 21 February – Regional University Roadshow 1.30pm – 3.00pm
- Monday 19 March – Health Careers Forum 2012.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor

LIBRARY NEWS

Study Club

Study Club is an excellent opportunity available to all students at McCarthy. The library remains open until 5.00pm on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons so that students can do homework in a quiet environment and use the library resources and computers to work on assessment tasks. Students who come are requested to sign in when they arrive and out when they leave. Study Club is supervised by staff on a volunteer basis and they can be asked for assistance if the student requires help.

This is not an internet cafe for browsing or playing games, nor is it afterschool care. Students are expected to use the time to complete school work. Those who do not want to spend time on school related activities, or disrupt other students, will not be welcome at Study Club. This is an opportunity that allows students to focus on their learning and to help them by providing facilities and resources to assist them.

G2 will also be open and supervised from 7.45am – 8.30am on Monday and Friday mornings for those who want to do private work or study quietly before school.

Mrs Cheryl Gulliford and Mrs Susan Barrett – Teacher Librarians

MATHEMATICS

All students are expected to have their grid book, Student Planner, pens, ruler, calculator and textbook with them in class at all times. Students will be expected to have texts in class from Monday of Week 3 (February 13). If there are any concerns regarding this please let myself or the class teacher know. I wish all a happy 2012 and hope students use their class time productively.

Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

McCarthy will be continuing its Instrumental Music Program in 2012. This is a great opportunity for students to learn new skills and participate in the extra-curricular activities of the school.

The Concert Band is open to any student who can already play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Strings are also welcome if they would like to be involved. The band rehearses on Thursday at lunchtime.

The Jazz Band is for experienced sax, trumpet and trombone players. There is currently a vacancy for guitar. It is essential that members can read music. If interested please see Mrs Lane in the PAC on Tuesday lunchtime.

The Junior Band is for beginners who would like to learn a band instrument. Year 7 will have an information session on Thursday. Any student from Years 8-11 who would like to learn an instrument should see Mrs Lane in the PAC on Thursday.

Participation in the program involves 1/2 hour tutorials during class time on Thursdays on a rotational basis. It is essential that all applicants realise it is a yearlong commitment. Music is a skill that takes patience and practice, but one which is very rewarding and can improve overall skills in all areas of learning.

For further information please contact Mrs Lane.

Mrs Lisa Lane – Band Coordinator

SPORT

NSWCCC Individual and Teams Selection Trials Dates

Please note there is a change in the procedure for students nominating either as an individual or a team for CCC events. Nomination for these sporting events will now take place online and will be the responsibility of the parent/student. **As a result of this change, the school will no longer be able to lodge nominations for students.** Unfortunately, due to the new online nominating system, late entries cannot be accepted.

The website will be activated from next week. Students will be given further information at the next assembly.

The following are closing dates for nomination for CCC events:

Closing Dates

Friday 17 February	Open Girls CCC Cricket
Monday 20 February	CCC Tennis Selections
Monday 2 March	CCC Golf Championships
Friday 9 March	CCC Hockey
Thursday 15 March	Western CCC Soccer, CCC Netball
Friday 30 March	CCC Hockey teams
Monday 2 April	CCC AFL

Please see Mr Falkenmire for further information.