

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Jesus, as I contemplate your face, let me experience your great love for me. Reveal your saving grace and give me a grateful heart. Heal me of my weaknesses and sin and fill me with compassion for others. Gift me with the wisdom of the Spirit and encourage me to be a faithful witness to the Gospel. Amen.

(Armidales Diocesan Prayer for the Year of Grace)

Reflection: What is Grace?

Grace is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become adopted children. (Catechism of the Catholic Church N. 1996-2005)

Grace is God's practical concern for us in the uncertainties of our lives. (Fr Pat Richards)

Grace, which is God donating and communicating God's own self to us, comes through the powerful acts of those around us, the acts of love, selflessness, forgiveness and affection. This grace of which Jesus was full, this grace is the life of God. (Bill Huebsch *Grace God's Greatest Gift* 23rd Publ. USA p.43)

Grace is a real gift or favour from God that is a blessing, freely given as a benefit and received as a joy, prompting gratitude and thanksgiving. (Bishop Peter Comensoli *Amazing Year of Grace!* Inform No 136 CAEC Sydney 2012)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Student Achievement

This week's assembly highlighted an extraordinary number of individual and group/team student achievements. Many of these are discussed elsewhere in the newsletter and are very worthy of note. The breadth and extent of the talent, dedication and spirit of our students is a constant joy.

Walkathon

The Walkathon total update now stands at \$17,700. This is, again, an outstanding contribution to Catholic Mission from our school community. It is not well known that McCarthy is the biggest fundraising school for the Mission in the world. We are the only school in the world to be given our own project (three now) and McCarthy raises more money for Catholic Mission each year than all the schools in the Sydney Archdiocese combined. This fact brought significant recognition and praise to our school at the state Directors of Catholic Schools meeting held in Sydney last year.

SLC

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have been elected as Year 12 Student Leadership Council representatives for 2012 Term 4 and 2013.

Ted Alderton, Anna Camilleri, Mikala Dimmock, James Dunn, Lara Northey, Georgia Rae, Sarah Simmonds, Leo Steyn, Jerome Studdy and Harry Vella.

Year 12

Next Monday our Year 12 students will participate in their final voluntary Twilight Retreat and join parents and staff in a thanksgiving Farewell Mass on Wednesday evening at St Nicholas' Church. The school will hold the Formal Farewell Assembly for the students on Thursday 20 September.

News from the Parishes

Mr Paul Manvell will be ordained to the permanent Diaconate this Saturday morning at 11:00am at Mary Help of Christians Church, South Tamworth. Mr Tuan Tran will receive Candidacy for Clerical State on Sunday at 9:30am Mass at St Nicholas', Tamworth. The school community joins the parishes in praying for both men at this significant time.

A small number of McCarthy students will participate in the Confirmation retreat with candidates from St Nicholas' this Friday.

Staff

Congratulations to Mr Luke Adams and Sarah on the safe arrival of baby Noah. Mr Andrew Davy will be replacing Luke as Year 11 Coordinator whilst he is on leave.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

Diary Dates

13 Sept:	Year 11 Exams continue
20 Sept:	Year 12 Farewell Assembly
21 Sept:	Last day of Term 3
8 Oct:	Term 4 commences
15 Oct:	HSC Exams commence
19 Oct:	Cathedral Centenary Mass - Armidale
8 Nov:	HSC concludes
12 Nov:	Year 12 Graduation Dinner/Dance
27 Nov:	Year 7 2013 Information Evening 7pm
28 Nov:	Year 7 2013 Orientation Day
28 Nov:	Year 11 Legal Studies Excursion
17 Dec:	Award Night
19 Dec:	Last day of Term 4 for students

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Coles and Woolworths School Programs

Thank you to those families and community members who kindly donated their vouchers to the Coles and Woolworths School Programs. We are pleased to announce the grand totals. Coles: 55,233 and Woolworths: 23,910. We will be able to purchase resources and equipment for the PDHPE, HSIE, Music, Drama and Art faculties.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Annual REC Conference

We recently attended the annual REC Conference in Moree. It was a good opportunity to meet with other RECs from throughout the diocese and to reflect on various aspects of our roles within our schools. The highlight of the conference was the opportunity to meet with Bishop Kennedy. He celebrated a beautiful Mass for us and engaged in general discussion informally and also formally on the topic of The New Evangelisation. This will be a primary focus in the coming year.

Vinnies Camp

We have received great feedback on the involvement of our students in the Youth Camp which was held recently at Lake Keepit. All who attended contributed positively to the camp, interacted well with other students and staff and generally represented their school extremely well. We are very grateful to Mr Bernie Williams for accompanying our students.

Assessments and Exams

Most students across all year groups will be involved in assessments tasks or examinations before the end of the term. We encourage all students to put their best efforts into the preparation for these tasks. Year 11 will sit for their Yearly Examination for Studies of Religion in Week 10. We remind Year 11 of the importance of undertaking a solid program of revision, of the whole course, in the time leading up to this examination.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

We welcome Kristen Engelbrecht (Year 8), Tayla Reith (Year 9), Jaydn Hinson (Year 11) and their families into the McCarthy community.

UAC Educational Access Schemes 2012

EAS information and forms are available at www.uac.edu.au or from Mrs McGregor for Year 12 students who have had a disadvantage in their preparation for the Higher School Certificate. Applications with supporting documentation must be returned to Mrs McGregor by Wednesday 12 September.

Theme for the Week

Laughter is a wonderful thing to share. It reduces stress, makes us feel better and brings us together. In Week 6 we talked about these benefits and shared some jokes. It is necessary for adolescents to understand that there are jokes suitable for different situations, that racist and sexist jokes are unacceptable, and that it is a good idea to remember some jokes that are suitable in any company. It is also vital to appreciate the difference between laughing with and laughing at someone. Congratulations in particular to EDK, EDF, DAJ, DJV, DSB, DJB, MJW, MTG, MPC and MVF for their fun contributions.

In Week 8 it was time to find our moral compass, discover our fortes, tame our inboxes, be flexible and savour the seasons.

“Be happy with what you have, and you will have plenty to be happy about.” – Irish Proverb

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Year 8

All Year 8 elective choices are now overdue for subject selections for next year (Year 9). If you still have any questions or concerns please contact Mr Mitchell at your convenience.

Mr Daniel Mitchell – Year 8 Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Big W Retail Industry Partnership Program

This term a group of Year 10 students participated in this program which was organised through Careers Network. The industry partnership project is designed to offer students the opportunity to experience exposure to a work environment. In this program students are engaged by Big W, Tamworth and provided with an orientation to the Retail Industry and throughout the term of the program, they worked in different department operations. Upon completing the program, students were presented with certificates and a special afternoon tea was held. Congratulations to the following students for successfully completing the program: Steven Allwell, Kate Alcock, Natalie Holm, Kristianna Moloney, Emily Orman, Alana Russell-White, Carly Russell-White and Jessie Stanton.



Work Experience

Last week, approximately ten students completed work experience in various locations. Some had to complete the OHS Construction Induction course prior to doing this.

Year 11 Students to Visit Sydney Uni in the Holidays

A group of five Year 11 students will be attending lectures and tours of the university campus to help them with career and course choices for life after the HSC.

Year 12

Students who intend applying university need to do so soon to avoid the last minute rush as on-time applications are due by September 28. Early entry applications and scholarship applications had to be submitted to the Careers Room last week and these are currently being processed by a panel of staff. Students need to have resumes ready, be organising work experience if looking for apprenticeships and keeping note of deadlines and information not to be missed.

Students and parents are strongly advised to see if they are eligible for Equity Scholarships for students from lower-income backgrounds at: <http://www.uac.edu.au/equity/>

UAC comes to Tamworth

Luckily for us, Tamworth was one of the regional centres where UAC gave presentations last week for students, parents and staff. This is the first time UAC has done this and they spoke about the ATAR, bonus points and scaling.

HSIE

Fifteen Year 10 students recently took part in the Australian History Competition. All these students are to be congratulated for their efforts to extend their learning opportunities. The following results are worthy of special mention:

Distinction: Hannah Gunning, Jacinta Flynn, Laura Vanderstelt, Sally Archer

Credit: Dana Dehm, Jack Pianta

Merit: Antonio Comi, Jake Curran, Katrina Lu, Steven Allwell.

Mrs Louise Vella – HSIE Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION**Association Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 September at 7.00pm in the staff room. All parents/carers are most welcome to attend.

Please note: Car Boot Sale has been postponed to a date to be advised.

PROPERTY PLANNING COMPETITION

Congratulations to Alex Lane who was announced the Runner Up in the 2012 Property Planning Competition. Alex was awarded a trophy for his efforts at an awards ceremony held at AgQuip. This competition saw him visit a property, then complete a plan to make it both more sustainable and economically viable. There were over 400 competitors and Alex deserves huge congratulations for his success. In the words of Anne Ferguson, the Media and Public Relations Officer for the Namoi CMA, "McCarthy must be congratulated for being so prominent as a finalist or Grand Champion on every occasion they have entered the competition. Well done to all involved."

Miss Leanne Sjollema – Agriculture Teacher

Alex Lane (11), Miss Leanne Sjollema

**Canteen Price Rise – Term 4**

Due to price increases passed on by our suppliers it is necessary for an increase in some menu items. The price rise will take effect Week 1, Term 4. New canteen menus will be sent home with students and the full menu is also available on the website.

If anyone is interested in helping during Term 4, please contact Raelee on 67610856 or baldo@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

SPORT

Athletics Carnival

The school Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday 23 August. There was an excellent level of student participation and spirit. Congratulations to Edmund Rice for winning the overall point score on the day.



Point Score

Edmund Rice 686 points, Chisholm 682 points, Dominic 645, McKillop 624 points.

Age Champions

Girls

- 12 years Alix Sills
- 13 years Alexandra Reed
- 14 years Brianna Macpherson

- 15 years Sophie Heeney
- 16 years Mikala Dimmock
- Elizabeth Murray
- 17+ years Lauren Murphy

Boys

- Harper Galvin
- Jayden Gimbergh
- Morgan Pennefather
- Benjamin Foster
- Matthew Johnston
- Ryan Prentice

- Thomas Sanson



Gymnastics

Congratulations to Alice Murphy who was the only Tamworth member of the Level 3 Senior North West gymnastic team which competed at Gosford on Sunday 26 August in the NSW State Gymnastic Championships. The team of five, which was represented by Tamworth, Gunnedah and Dubbo, was very successful winning gold on beam, uneven bars and vault and winning the overall gold medal for the North West team.

Rugby League

Our Year 10/11 Rugby League team had a good win in the Emerging Schools Rugby League competition on Wednesday night over Peel High 26-16. The man of the match was awarded to Ryan Prentice, with Blake Cameron and Mitchell Bain also having stand out games. Mr Meppem's Under 14s team fought hard, but went down 28-14 to Peel High School.

Mr Daniel Mitchell

Equestrian Team



On Friday 24 August, ten McCarthy Catholic College students attended the annual Carinya Christian School Horse Sports day at the Kootingal Pony Club grounds. Students in attendance were Ben Collett, Megan Reid (Year 11), Sian Bricknell (Year 9), Sam Collett, Bree Hemmings, Matt Letton, Natasha Achurch (Year 8), Bella Burr-Cliff, Lachlan Smith and Patrick Ferguson (Year 7). Ben Collett was awarded the 16 Boys Champion Rider, Megan Reid 16 Girls Champion Rider, Sam Collett 14 Boys Champion Rider and Bree Hemmings 14 Girls Champion Rider. All students had a wonderful day.