

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,

A Children's Prayer for the Year of Grace

Loving God, we know that you love us always,
wherever we go and whatever we do.

The Year of Grace is a special time for us to remember just how
important your love is.

During this year help us to think about Jesus your Son and how
he showed your love in the way he lived for others.

May your Holy Spirit help us to be more loving and forgiving.

Saint Mary MacKillop, help us to be more like Jesus.

We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen

Reflection

The Year of Grace is not a program or a series of events, but rather a call to prayer and listening to the Spirit for the wisdom
needed for the future directions and priorities of the Church in Australia.

It is time to be attentive to our relationships, healing hurts and breaking down barriers and divisions.

It is about attending to God's Word, remembering with gratitude what God has done for us and encountering Jesus afresh.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Year 12

The final Twilight Retreat for Year 12 was conducted last Monday night. Fr Gleeson and Tuan Tran assisted, along with a number
of staff and other young people who shared some of their faith journey with students.

On Wednesday night we celebrated the Farewell Mass of Thanksgiving at St Nicholas Church.

Yesterday the students participated in a 'mystery bus tour' which involved some community service and some bonding activities.

The Farewell Assembly was held today. The graduation ceremony and dinner will be held at the Tamworth Town Hall on Monday
12 November.

The school community wishes all our Year 12 students every success in the Higher School Certificate examinations. I am sure
parents will join staff and students in praying for them all, that they may approach each exam with confidence and be able to reap
the rewards of their efforts.

Catholic Schools Funding

We are continuing to analyse the implications of last week's NSW Government announcement on funding cuts to the education
sector. Diocesan Director for Catholic Schools, Mr John Mula, said "It is the unfortunate fact that all students in all NSW schools
and TAFEs will be the losers as a result of this decision. A four-year funding freeze effectively means a cut in 'real terms' as
education costs generally increase by 6% per year." A letter providing more detail about the funding cuts is available on request
from the school office.

School Perception Survey

Thank you to all parents who responded to the school perception survey for your overwhelming support of the school, its
leadership, staff, culture, policies and procedures. We will now move to consolidate many of the practices established and set in
place some improvements.

Solar Panels

Solar panels have been fitted to the hall roofing. The panels were installed using funds made available from our successful
application for the Solar Schools Grant (\$50,000).

Australian Government Assistance for National Capital Excursion

Year 10 students from our school have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they
participate in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their national capital as part of
their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government
contributed funding of \$30 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the
travel expenses incurred. This contribution was paid directly to the school.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Summer Uniform

All students should be in full summer uniform from the commencement of Term 4. The summer uniform requirements are clearly
outlined on the school website: <http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/uniformpolicy.html>. Please note that school shoes should be

Diary Dates

20 Sept:	Year 12 Farewell Assembly
21 Sept:	Last day of Term 3
8 Oct:	Term 4 commences
10 Oct:	PUPIL FREE DAY
11 Oct:	Year 7/8 Touch Football
15 Oct:	HSC Exams commence
17 Oct:	Show team to Lismore Show
19 Oct:	Cathedral Centenary Mass - Armidale
8 Nov:	HSC concludes
12 Nov:	Year 12 Graduation Dinner/Dance
27 Nov:	Information Evening for new parents in 2013
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

black, leather lace up shoes with a solid sole. Sports joggers are to be predominantly white and supportive. Canvas shoes and coloured 'vans' are NOT permitted.

Pupil Free Day

The school's annual Religious Education Professional Development Day will be held on Wednesday 10 October, in the first week of Term 4. This year staff will be examining in greater depth the New Evangelisation and its implications for us as a Catholic educational institution. We are very fortunate to be able to have significant input on the day from our Bishop. **Students will not attend school on this day.**

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 12 Retreat and Mass

It is fitting that, as a part of their final days at school, our Year 12 students were involved in activities which reflected the Catholic nature of our school. Large numbers of students attended the Twilight Retreat on Monday evening and entered into the spirit of the retreat very well. Again we are grateful to Fr Gleeson and Tuan, from St Nicholas' parish, for being with us and for their continued support. We are also very grateful to members of staff who helped out on the night and who, together with our ex-student Harriet Molony, openly relayed aspects of their own personal faith journey.

On Wednesday evening, a Mass of Thanksgiving was concelebrated by Fathers Gleeson and McHugh at St Nicholas' Church. The majority of Year 12 students were present and, together with their families, witnessed a prayerful and joyful celebration.

We wish all Year 12 students the very best of luck in their HSC examinations and in their future lives. We trust that the seeds of faith that have been sown in their formative years will flourish in the years to come.

Catholic Women Connecting

A meeting will be held in the meeting room at St Nicholas' Church on Saturday 13 October at 2.00pm to discuss the formation of a St Nicholas' Catholic Women Connecting group. Women of all ages are most welcome to attend.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Put the Spray Away So We Can All Breathe a Little Easier

Please note that aerosol cans are not permitted at school. Use of aerosol deodorants, body sprays and hair sprays can exacerbate asthma symptoms making it difficult to for some people to breathe. 14.9% of McCarthy students have asthma. Please assist us in providing a safe environment for all students by encouraging your child to use appropriate products. As summer approaches it is also a good time to remind your child about hot weather hygiene.

Head Lice

There have been some cases of head lice within the school. Please check your child's hair and treat if necessary. For information: www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice

Centacare Courses

The following FREE courses are held at the Centacare Office, 201 Marius St, Tamworth. Bookings are essential. Please contact Sharon on 67629200.

P.U.L.S.E. (Pumping Up Low Self Esteem) - 4 week program, Mondays 8, 15, 22 & 29 October, 4.00pm – 6.00pm. Promotes self-esteem and stress management strategies for 12 – 15 year olds.

Grandparents Parenting – 3 week program, Mondays 15, 22 & 29 October. Information and support for grandparents raising children.

Sense Of Self – 4 week program commencing Tuesday 9 October, promoting self-awareness and acceptance for men living with a mental illness.

Achieving Well-being and Happiness – 4 week Cognitive Behaviour Therapy program, Tuesdays 9, 16, 23 & 30 October, 1.30pm – 3.30pm, to assist people living with anxiety and/or depression.

Holiday Tasks

Students should be reminded that organisation is a key to success. Holiday organisation could include such tasks as: completing any unfinished class tasks, completing summaries, filing notes, redoing past assessment tasks, updating stationery supplies and cleaning schoolbags. Summer uniforms should be checked to see they fit, are in good condition and meet all requirements (see Student Planner) including the correct length.

Theme for the Week

In Week 9 we looked at the steps to take after we have done something wrong – *admit* the mistake, *apologise* if necessary, *accept* the consequences, *learn* from it and move on. We ALL make mistakes in life, but accepting responsibility and showing genuine remorse helps others to forgive us.

This week, students were challenged to show, by their actions, *Care* – for their families, themselves, the school environment and for someone they don't know well.

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

On time applications for university with UAC and QTAC are due on Friday 28 September as are applications for EAS. Many scholarships, equity scholarships and accommodation applications are also due in coming weeks. Please check with individual organisations for specific dates.

The coming school holidays, as well as being a time for revision, may also provide opportunities to visit any colleges or universities on the short list, especially if you were unable to attend open days.

A guest speaker from TAFE talked to students on Monday about changes across the state to application procedures and due dates. Unfortunately, not many Year 12 students attended. However, TAFE is a great option for many and should be considered by some Year 12 students who may apply to university but not receive an offer of a placement.

If students intend going to TAFE in other areas such as Newcastle or Sydney, they will need to check TAFE requirements in those regions. Different closing dates and means of applying for different courses may exist.

HSC Survival Guide – for Parents and the Family

This guide provides practical advice for the whole family about dealing with the challenges and stresses of Year 12 and HSC.
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/tips-for-surviving-the-hsc>

Year 11

Next term some students need to consider the subjects they will take forward to the HSC. Some students may make ill-advised decisions to drop subjects which will have implications for their ATARs and their success at university in certain courses. I will be talking to Year 11 students about what needs to be considered regarding subject choices for the HSC year in early Term 4.

Year 10

Students wishing to leave at the end of the year and those who are still unsure of subject choices are advised to see me either in the Careers Room at lunchtimes on Wednesdays and Fridays or to make an appointment to see me. This week, students who have expressed an interest in studying TVET courses in 2013 have been interviewed by Mrs Maxworthy and myself.

There are a small number of students doing work experience these holidays and I wish those students well and congratulate them on their initiative.

Skillset Open Day – Thursday 4 October

Are you considering an apprenticeship or traineeship?

Skillset is a not for profit organisation that employs apprentices and trainees and places them with 'host' businesses. They have recently opened an office in Tamworth to assist young people in the Tamworth region to secure apprenticeships and traineeships. If students are thinking about the options available to them after they finish school, Skillset might be able to help. They will be hosting a range of sessions aimed at providing information about apprenticeships, traineeships, registering with Skillset, career options and how to successfully land an ideal job.

Thursday 4 October at Skillset Tamworth Office, 68 Brisbane Street from 11.00am – 2.00pm.

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

PARENT INFORMATION

Association Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 October at 7.00pm in the staff room. All parents/carers are most welcome to attend.

To keep up to date with what is happening at the school we invite you to attend our monthly meetings. Each month at the beginning of our meeting we have a Talkback session which gives information such as policies on homework, behaviour management, Moodle and Parent/Teacher Interviews. These are very informative sessions delivered by our Principal, Mrs Kate Rayment, and I would encourage all parents to attend.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except in school holidays) and starts at 7.00pm in the staff room. We are currently looking at holding a Trivia Night to be held in November and more information on this will be forthcoming. The Pie Drive that was to take place in October has been cancelled because of the unavailability of the hall due to the HSC. Watch this space for updates !

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

QUIRINDI SHOW

Quirindi Show is a great opportunity to combine experienced and newer show team members. This year we took a team of 4 steers and a cow and calf from the McCarthy Simmental Stud. Paul Murphy and Alex Watt achieved Reserve Champion placing for the cow and calf. The steer class was heavily contested with a dozen steers from all over the region competing. Rob Maxwell gave a great demonstration to the team, leading "Maverick" into first place, with first time leader Samarah Thrift achieving 2nd place with "Chance". Our other steers, "Harry" and "Sin" took out 4th and 5th respectively with Paul and Alex on the leads.

The entire team were given the opportunity to have a turn in the Paraders Competition, with Makayla Riley and Claudia Turner being first time competitors, and other more experienced students, Jasmine Whitten and Anna Crisp, taking the chance to fine tune their skills. Special thanks to Graham Jordan for the loan of some beautiful heifers to use for Paraders. We also debuted our new show team uniforms and would like to thank "Aunty Dot" for her help with making this possible. Thank you.

Miss Leanne Sjollem – Agriculture Teacher



SPORT

Netball Grand Finals

Last Saturday, five McCarthy Netball teams (MCC Dodgers, MCC Dictators, MCC Diamonds, MCC Magic and MCC Megababes) competed in the Tamworth Netball Associations Grand Finals. Congratulations to MCC Dictators and MCC Magic who are the 2012 champions. A special thank you to Mrs Angela Milek and Miss Megan Barnes for all their work this season and to all coaches/managers who have helped throughout out the year.

NSWCCC Athletics

Six students competed at the NSWCCC Athletics Championships at Homebush last Friday: Caitlin Austin, Matt Dunn, Jayden Gimbergh, Sophie Heeney, Morgan Pennefather and Alix Sills. Congratulations to Sophie Heeney for winning a silver medal in the 1500m, breaking the 5 minute barrier for the first time. Sophie then competed in the 800m, finishing 5th.

Girls Hockey

The Tamworth Secondary Girls' Hockey grand finals were played on Monday night. McCarthy had a great night winning both 1st and 3rd division.

In Division 1, McCarthy One defeated Calrossy One 3-2 in extra time, after scores were locked 1-1 at full time. McCarthy's goals were scored by Megan Murphy, Lauren Murphy and Sam Howard.

In Division 3, McCarthy Gold beat the previously undefeated Oxley Kit Kats 2-1, with both goals scored by Olivia Dillon.

McCarthy had two other teams – McCarthy Black who missed the semi-finals by 1 point in 2nd Division, finishing 5th out of 8; while McCarthy Blue finished third, and beat Calrossy Red 2-0 in the minor semi, before bowing out via a draw with McCarthy Gold in the preliminary final.

The efforts of all four teams resulted in McCarthy being awarded 'Most Successful School' for an amazing seventh straight year. At the presentation, Bronte Pennefather was named 2nd Division Best and Fairest, Olivia Dillon was named 3rd Division Best and Fairest, and Georgia Cooper, Libbi Maher and Darcy Doyle were recognised for their umpiring during the season.

Thank you to our coaches, Denby Budden, Donna Watson, Cheryl Cruickshank and Andrew Davy, and all players and their parents. A special thank you to our Year 12 students, Caitlin Baxter, Gabby Collier, Georgia McSweeney, Lauren Murphy, Zoe O'Sullivan, Shae Parsons, Bronte Pennefather and Maegan Watts who have made a great contribution to hockey at McCarthy over the past 6 years.



Rugby Union

Congratulations to Joshua Strange who has been selected to tour Fiji with NSW Country Under 15 Rugby Union team in the school holidays.

National Touch Football Championships

Good luck to Brittany Coe who is presently competing at the National Touch Football Championships in Port Macquarie representing the NSWCCC Opens team.