

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

*Let us pray that we may take Christ's coming seriously.
All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming
and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

Reflection

The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. The Lord is coming. We may reflect that every year at this time we celebrate his coming. During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This gives us a background for the present and helps us to understand what is to come, in our own future and that of our world.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Major Academic Achievement

Last Friday I travelled to Sydney to attend the award ceremony for the ICAS (International Assessments) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). The Gold Medallist ceremony was held in the main theatre at the university and acknowledged those students who placed first in their Year Group across NSW and the ACT. Almost all award Secondary school winners were from Sydney selective schools. I was extremely proud of Lesley Wong who received her gold medal for coming first in NSW and the ACT in Year 12 ICAS English. She was the only regional (non-Metropolitan) winner.

James Dunn (Year 11) was also recognised on the day, having been named a "Distinguished Achiever" in Mathematics. James was given a tour of the university and attended a reception held to honour the students who achieved the honour.

Both students are outstanding ambassadors of our school and are congratulated for their exceptional achievements.



Board and Association

I would like to take the opportunity in this newsletter to sincerely thank all members of the Board and the Association for their dedicated service and support of the school throughout 2012. The parent partnerships in the school are very strong and I hope they continue to grow in 2013.

The Year 11 Hospitality classes catered for the end-of-year Thank You Dinner held last week. The Spanish theme inspired a beautiful setting and a stunning seven-course tapas menu. Mrs Maxworthy, Mrs Milek and all students involved are to be congratulated for the outstanding effort. It was a lovely evening.

We farewelled Mrs Joan O'Sullivan, whose six years of service to the school community ended this year with her daughter, Zoe, graduating with the class of 2012. We also thanked Mrs Jenny Hatfield for her consistent and tireless work in the Clothing Pool.

Orientation

Students enrolled in Year 7 2013 attended an orientation day at McCarthy on Wednesday. This was preceded by an information night for parents on Tuesday evening. The students were excited, if not a little apprehensive and participated in a wide range of activities aimed at familiarisation.

Award Night

The annual Award Night will be held on Monday 17 December. The planning for this night is underway and some invitations have been sent to students who will receive awards. The remainder of invitations will go out over the next two weeks. Students, together with parents and family, are encouraged to attend this night as it is the opportunity to give due recognition to students who have been outstanding in our school. Students will be required to wear full summer uniform.

Trivia Night

Thank you to all the families who attended the Trivia Night; it was a fun-filled social evening with prizes galore. Thank you also to the McCarthy Association for the organisation of the event.

Diary Dates

29 Nov:	Year 10 HSIE to 'Courage to Care Exhibit'
3 Dec:	Creative Arts Evening
3 Dec:	Year 9 Tea Gardens Excursion
12 Dec:	School Assembly – Farewell Fr Gleeson
13 Dec:	Year 8 to Barraba
17 Dec:	Award Night
18 Dec:	Year 10 Dinner Dance
19 Dec:	Last day of Term 4 for students
21 Dec:	Last day of Term 4 for staff
29 Jan:	Staff return for 2013
30 Jan:	Years 7, 11 and new students commence
31 Jan:	Whole school commence



Twitter

In the age of information, almost everything is done electronically. For McCarthy, this includes communicating with parents. Fortunately, there are tools that make corresponding electronically much easier. One such tool is 'Twitter'.

Twitter is a real-time information network that connects you to the latest stories, ideas, opinions and news about what you find interesting. Simply find the accounts you find most compelling and follow the conversations.

All this begs the question, why does McCarthy use Twitter?

McCarthy will be using twitter to get information out to parents, students and the wider community quickly and efficiently, and what makes it better is that you do not need a twitter account to follow what's happening.

For more information about Twitter please visit the McCarthy Website and click parents. You can find our Twitter page at, www.twitter.com/mcctamworth.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

In the School Results Surveys conducted this year, parents were asked about our current uniform policy and whether we needed to consider any changes. The overwhelming response was a commitment to maintain the policy. All families enrolling at McCarthy sign their commitment to this policy and its inherent standards. To this end I urge all families to check that each student's uniform conforms to the policy - printed in student planners and also available on the College website. Students will incur consequences for repeated defiance of uniform requirements.

Could families please:

- Check the length/size of all girls' summer tunics - (junior and senior). Uniforms are to be hemmed below the knee and often uniforms are too short because the girls have grown.
- Check the size of all boys' shirts - often shirts are not able to be tucked in because they are too short in the body
- Check that school shoes are black, leather and lace up
- Check that sports joggers are predominately white and supportive
- Check that sports shorts and socks are McCarthy uniform items
- Check that canvas shoes are not worn to school.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Vinnies

The new Vinnies office bearers will be inducted into their positions at the First Friday Mass, 7.00am on 7 December at St Nicholas Church, Tamworth. We encourage all students and staff to attend Mass on this morning to show their support for these leaders.

The first fundraising activity planned by the new 'team' is Photos with Santa! These photos will be taken on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 December and hopefully will be as popular as they were last year. Students enjoyed the opportunity to see their teachers double as Santa, elves etc. Funds raised will go to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Friday Prayer

Students and staff will have the opportunity to meet for prayer each Friday during Advent, at 1.00pm in G4, as part of preparation for the coming of Our Lord.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Zayne George, Brooke Thomas, Haydn Carter and Natalie Holm and their families following the death of a grandparent.

Counsellor

Please note that due to illness Mrs Tamara Shoemark will be absent from school for the remainder of the term. Mrs McGregor, Mrs Taylor and the Year Coordinators will assist students wherever possible. If necessary, counselling outside the school should be arranged by parents. If you have any concerns please contact Mrs McGregor.



Leadership Day

Ten of our senior student leaders accompanied by Mrs McGregor and Mr Hobbs, attended the National Young Leaders Day at Darling Harbour Convention Centre recently.

The program organised by the Halogen Foundation, had inspirational guest speakers:

- Dr Carl Krusenicki - Global warming and the response of scientists, politicians and our future leaders
- Kevin Sheedy - making the most of the incredible gift of life, by planning, learning and using knowledge to help others
- Ronni Kahn - the importance of helping others with the OzHarvest program (redistributing unused food)
- Mike Martin - types of leadership
- Taga Paa - the importance of teachers and mentors, of the need to make a change in yourself so you can make a positive change in the world.

It is hoped that these students will bring into the school ideas, energy and actions motivated by the presentations of the day.

Theme for the Week

Students were encouraged to SUPPORT EACH OTHER. This will increase the external resilience of both people. Suggested ways to support include: spending time with someone, listening, being positive and encouraging, and linking someone with other supports. Please discuss with your child who supports them and how they can increase their support of others.

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

EXAMS

McCarthy's official examination period has now finished. It began with the Higher School Certificate in Week 2 this term, moving into Year 10 exams during Week 5, and finishing with Year 7-9 exams during Week 6. It was very pleasing to see the students settle into the routine of entering an examination room in an orderly fashion, working quietly during the test and sitting quietly after the exam and being able to leave the hall displaying appropriate behaviour.

I would like to emphasise the importance of examinations at McCarthy. For many subjects these exams form part of the formal assessment process. This means that if your child is absent from school when an exam is scheduled, a phone call is expected from you prior to 9.00am, informing the school of the student's absence. This is normal procedure if your child is absent when an assessment task is due.

If a student is absent from school on the day of an exam, it is important for them to go at the hall the next day back at school as their exam will be waiting for them. There is also usually a time on the last day of the examination period for 'catch-up' exams. If students do not follow this practice, then the usual procedure of informing parents via a letter indicating the incomplete work, will be followed.

Although vacations are important in terms of strengthening family relationships, it would be ideal if holidays could be avoided during examination periods. The examination period is set towards the end of semester, which means we are often operating within tight timelines of marking the exam and completing your child's Semester report. If your child does not complete their exams within the examination period then an estimated mark may need to be awarded. An estimated mark relies on your child's performance in previous tasks but this may not be a true indication of your child's ability and could give a misleading result.

Ms Suzanne Day – Acting Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Despite Year 12 students having left school, information continues to arrive about courses, colleges, scholarships and jobs. I encourage students to keep checking their emails for details.

TAFE enrolment procedures for 2013 have changed this year with many courses open for enrolment now. If TAFE is an option for 2013, please visit the Tamworth TAFE website at:

http://www.newengland.tafensw.edu.au/services_and_facilities/campuses/tamworth.aspx

If students want to study at any other TAFE, they will need to go its website as dates and procedures will now differ from TAFE to TAFE.

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

SCIENCE**Science at McCarthy: the partial Solar Eclipse**

Were you lucky enough to see the solar eclipse on 14 November? It was touch and go right up to the last minutes when clouds parted over Tamworth just long enough to give most people a spectacular view of the partial eclipse. Thanks to the help of Mrs Lees and the special solar viewing glasses, many McCarthy students arrived to school early in order to view this rare event. As the moon moved between the Earth and the sun it looked like a small bite (which gradually increased in size) was taken from the Sun.



CANTEEN NEWS

Did you know??? In 2012 at McCarthy College Canteen we: sold 4936 small chocolate milks, used 805kg of diced chicken meat, cooked 4025 chicken burgers and made 5012 large chicken and gravy rolls? We achieved this with 29 volunteers who worked 1194 volunteer hours. Thank you!

'Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart' (Elizabeth Andrew)

We are planning our roster for 2013 and if you, your friends or family members are able to assist we would be pleased to welcome you to our team. You can nominate to help once a term, monthly, fortnightly, weekly or be available for our on-call roster.

Thank you to staff and students for your custom and support, and to Jenny Ayres, Inga Potter, Marion Filo-Carroll, Julia O'Neill and volunteers for your contribution to our canteen during 2012. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2013.

Mrs Raelee Balderston – Canteen Supervisor

PARENT INFORMATION

Trivia Night Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Trivia Night held on Friday 16 November in the school hall. Whether you contributed by having a table on the night, donated prizes or spread the word, it was much appreciated. Thanks too to the local businesses that supported the evening. We had around 130 people attend which was outstanding, and raised around \$1,500 to go towards a defibrillator for the school.

Thank You

Thank you to all parents who have supported the Association this year. Your contributions are highly valued and we hope you have also enjoyed your association with us. Without the support of you as parents, the Association would not be able to fulfil its role in the school. We look forward to your continued support next year and hope to welcome new faces.

Wine and Cheese Night 2013

Please watch this space in future newsletters for information on the annual Wine and Cheese night that will be held on 27 February, 2013. This is a great informal night where you can come and meet other parents and the Principal.

SPORT

NIAS Awards

At the recent NIAS Sports Awards, Ellie Camilleri was named Most Dedicated in Swimming and Darcie Martin received the Coach's Award in Tennis. Well done girls.

Berg Shield Cricket

The Years' 7-9 cricket team played Holy Trinity, Inverell on 22 November. Holy Trinity batted first, and we restricted them to 9/128 in their 30 overs. McCarthy's main wicket takers were Jye Paterson (3/22) and Jack Davison (2/17). In response, McCarthy was restricted to 8/103 in our 30 overs, with Jack Davison top scoring with 17 not out. Holy Trinity won the match by 25 runs.

Downie Shield Cricket

McCarthy's Open cricket team travelled to Port Macquarie to play MacKillop Senior College on 14 November. McCarthy batted first, and were bowled out for 34 by a very strong pace bowling attack. MacKillop overhauled McCarthy's total for the loss of no wickets.

*McCarthy
Catholic College*



Family Fund Appeal

‘Christmas Hampers’

The family fund appeal, requires your generosity once again. You can help by donating products, that can be used in Christmas Hampers.

The Hampers will be delivered to families of students who have faced adversity during the year.

Ideas for hamper goods include:

Chips, biscuits, soft drinks, chocolates, nuts, pasta packets, tin food, Christmas pies, lollies, tissues, soaps, vouchers, writing paper etc.

Please ensure expiry dates are at least well into January 2013.

Please consider what you would like to receive in a hamper when sending items to school

**Donations to the school by:
Friday 7 December 2012**

Thank you for
your
generosity

Please leave donations at the school office.

Point of contact:

Lynda Dehm: 67671023 Raeleen Iuso: 67671331