

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,



Prayer

Father, on Christmas night,
teach us to look to the star,
the sign of miracles and dreams,
the messenger of joy,
the promise of peace
and like the wise men of old,
may we follow after the things that make for peace.
Most especially, Father, may we seek your Son
who made this night possible bringing Heaven
to Earth and Earth to Heaven. Amen

Reflection: Christmas is here. Let us relax, enjoy the goodness of our God, and sing of his love for us.

Diary Dates

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

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

As this is the final Newsletter for 2012, on behalf of the staff I wish all families a joyous Christmas Season and a happy New Year. May your Christmas be grace-filled and may you keep safe and enjoy each other's company throughout the school vacation. We wish those families who have finished their time at McCarthy best wishes for the future and look forward to seeing those returning in 2013, ready to embrace a new year of opportunity.

Details of Christmas Masses are available at the end of this Newsletter.

Award Night

The annual Award Night will be held this Monday, 17 December in the College Hall. All families are invited to attend this event, the highlight of the school year. Congratulations to all students who will receive awards and recognition of their outstanding achievements in academic, sporting and cultural endeavours and in leadership and service in our community.

Thank you

Thank you to all our parent volunteers, members of the McCarthy Association and the Board for your loyal and dedicated service throughout 2012.

Farewell Fr Gleeson

Students and staff farewelled Fr Richard Gleeson (Parish Priest of St Nicholas) at a whole school assembly on Wednesday. Fr Gleeson has been, singularly, the most influential person on the developing culture of McCarthy Catholic College. Since his appointment to St Nicholas, Fr Gleeson has been actively involved in the life of the College, from involvement in its foundational 'Steering Committee' to working with students, staff, parents and the Board to establish and maintain a deep and authentic Catholic mission in the school. The mission is shaped by faith and reason – through the building of a solid prayer-life, faithful worship, theological knowledge, practical charity and authentic witness.

I am certain families and friends join staff and students of McCarthy Catholic College in thanking Fr Gleeson sincerely and praying for him as he moves on to his new appointment as Administrator of St Mary and St Joseph Parish (the Cathedral) in Armidale.

Staff Farewells

Mrs Jan Coyle, Miss Megan Barnes and Mrs Angela Milek are completing their contracts at McCarthy and moving on to other parts of Australia or overseas. Mr Vince Filo-Carroll will be returning to Canada with his family following the completion of his twelve month exchange with Miss Melissa Davis.

Mr Dane Kelly, Mrs Julie Kellahan, Mr Kim Slattery, Mrs Bernadette Mackay, Mr Andrew Torres, Mr Dan Daley and Miss Stephanie McCabe will also be completing their temporary appointments. We hope to see more of them in 2013 in a casual capacity.

We also farewell Mr Fletcher Davies and Mr Jed Trow, our GAP Year ICT Support staff.

We wish them all well and thank each one for their dedicated service to the school community.

Creative Arts Evening

The Creative Arts Evening was held on Monday 3 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.

2013

The 2013 school year commences for staff on Tuesday 29 January. Year 7 and Year 11 students, and any other students new to the school, commence on Wednesday 30 January. All other students return on Thursday 31 January.

May God's blessing be upon you all this Christmas.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

2012 has been a busy year. To address individually all the important events of a school year is not practical, or possible. Each week, each term, is filled with the business of enriching all learning – that which happens in the classroom as part of the formal curriculum, and the holistic learning that occurs in the cultural, social and spiritual realms. This is the lived embodiment of our motto – Receive. Worship. Serve.

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to 2013.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vinnies

As the term draws to a close, the members of Vinnies have been busy fundraising for the annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal. The main fundraiser was 'Photos with Santa' which proved to be very popular. Many students and staff took the opportunity to have their photo taken with a collection of Christmas 'figures' including Santa, Mrs Claus, elves and reindeers. We are very grateful to the staff who were prepared to fill these roles for this event. In addition, gold stars were sold at lunchtime for a gold coin donation and placed around the Christmas tree in the foyer of the school.

Father Gleeson

We are very sorry to see Father Gleeson leave Tamworth for the cool environs of Armidale. We, particularly, would like to acknowledge his enormous contribution to Religious Education at McCarthy Catholic College. Over the 16 years that he was in Tamworth his support of our school was constant. He attended Twilight Retreats with senior students and provided incredible wisdom and understanding to those who were present. He was a continual source of reading material for teachers of Religion and for staff completing studies in RE and he willingly came to the school to deliver seminars to RE staff on aspects of the curriculum. He supported us in our role as RECs in countless ways. We wish Father the very best for the future.

Thank You

We sincerely thank the clergy for their involvement with our College during the year. We greatly appreciate them providing the opportunity for our students to attend Mass and Reconciliation, their encouragement of our fundraising for charities and their support of our retreat program throughout the year.

We would like to thank all teachers who were part of the RE staff this year, for their hard work and dedication in 2012. Many thanks also to our secretary, Deb Wade, for her patience, kindness and professionalism in her work with us this year.

Holy, Happy and Safe Christmas

We wish all staff, students and the whole McCarthy community a holy, happy and safe Christmas.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Timothy Baldwin and his family following the passing of his grandfather.

Achiever Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Achiever Awards at assembly:

Year 7: Grace Allan, Breanna Fox, Tristan Hunter, Hannah Macpherson, Samarah Thrift, Jeffrey Wong

Year 8: Tiffany Bruccoleri, Abigail Constable, Kate Cruickshank, Taylah Davies, Hayden Davy, Olivia Dillon, Laura Green, Alicia Guest, Dominic Gunning, Margaret Hawes, Bree Hemmings, Tayla Houlihan, Chloe Jolliffe, Emily Klepzig, Matthew Letton, James Lu, Luke Miles, Daniel Morris, Toby Paul, Natasha Rapley, Tiarna Rootes, Amanda Rowe, Courtney Smith, Shannon Smyth, Patrick Sparke, Henry Stanford, Laraena Styman, Emily Torode

Year 9: Beau Alderton, Ellie Camilleri, Darcy Flynn, Sophia Grady, Teanna Haywood, Jack McSweeney, Claudia Turner

Year 10: Rhys Chillingworth, Dana Constable, Jacinta Flynn, Abigail Murray, Thomas Paff, Emily Thrift, James Wong

Year 11: Anna Camilleri, Luke Dillon, Lara Northey, Grena Sancho, Sarah Simmonds, Hannah Woods

Principal's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who are recipients of the Principal's Award for 2012:

Year 7: Jack Awad, Emily Donaldson and Nicola Irwin

Year 8: Melanie Pearson, Tarryn Rizzi, Alexander Stuart and Gabrielle Vella

Year 10: Priyanka Pinto, Ellie Sampson, Gabrielle Studdy and Jessica Whitbread

Year 11: Anna Maher, Jerome Studdy and Harry Vella

Year 12: Taylor Day, Melanie Jones, Emily Murray, Shae Parsons, George Rixon and Melissa Sweeney.

Peer Mediation Training

Congratulations to the following Year 10 students who have completed their training in Peer Mediation: Amy Thompson, Ashleigh McCabe, Brittany Meissner, Carly Russell-White, Chloe Milgate, Dajarn Hile, Dana Dehm, Ellie Sampson, Gabrielle Studdy, Georgia Cooper, Hannah Pendergast, Heidi Rippon, Jacinta Flynn, Kate Alcock, Katrina Lu, Laura Vanderstelt, Leshia Reynolds, Liam Bordley, Madeline Doyle, Madeline Toole, Matthew Dunn, Morgan Ferris, Priyanka Pinto, Rhett Graham, Rohan Hughes, Ruth Makawara, Tayla Clark and Zak Barnes.

Next year they will assist younger students to find solutions to problems they may have.

Year 7 2013 Orientation Day

The Year 7 2013 Orientation Day saw 170 students visit the school. They met staff and students, completed literacy and numeracy testing, took part in activities to meet some of the students from other primary schools, toured the school, heard about 2012 Year 7 students' experiences and were entertained by students. Many thanks go to the staff leaders, Year 10 helpers, Year 7 speakers and students performers.

Theme for the week

Over the last week and a half, we consider the Spirit of Giving and then Christmas in the light of our motto:

Receive - receive gifts and food with gratitude and look for opportunities to do new and good things

Worship - celebrate the birth of Jesus at your church and at home

Serve - remember those not as fortunate as you and try to do something for them (donate, visit, share); remember to help those people who are making your Christmas a good one (offer to help prepare, cook, clean, wrap).

Thank You

I would like to express my appreciation to students and families who have contributed so generously to the Christmas hampers, the parents who have prepared them and to the St Vincent de Paul Society and Lowes for their wonderful contributions.

Thank you to everyone who has developed relationships and cared for others in our McCarthy community. May you and your families have a happy, holy and healthy Christmas.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Year 9 Tea Gardens 2012



Last week Year 9 went on their excursion to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. We were accompanied by Mr Williams, Mr Walker, Mr Feltrin, Miss Mumford, Miss O'Sullivan, Ms Sawtell and Mrs O'Neill.

The rain didn't stop us from getting into our first activities. The Lost Island is a mud challenge that smelt and tasted gross, while sailing and snorkelling were fun in the bay.

The Giant Swing was great fun for all, with Miss Mumford discovering that her children don't listen to her as they pulled her right to the top of the 18 metre swing. There were lots of screams. Raft building was a test of teamwork and resourcefulness. However, most groups discovered that their knot tying skills weren't up to scratch with rafts drifting apart.

The Leap of Faith tested the ability to cope with heights as it meant jumping off a 12 metre telephone pole. The Flying Fox took you across a body of water and through tree tops until you got to the bottom and

were caught by an instructor.

High Ropes was challenging but very rewarding. Unfortunately, the bushfire meant that not all groups got to participate. The bushfire was very scary and exciting - we were evacuated to the park at Jimmy's Beach where we spent the next 4 hours. A touch footy game between McCarthy and one of the other schools at Tea Gardens not only showed off our superior sport skills, but also our good sportsmanship.

Our commando night was the best activity of the week, everyone got involved and some people even painted themselves black to try and blend in. Unfortunately, the teachers kept all but two of the hostages.

Other night activities included a fun Challenge night and a Battle of the Sexes. Bree's Ghetto Army took the title of best student team, with the instructors and the teachers coming out on top. The Battle of the Sexes night saw a lot of cheating going on from the boys (led by Mr Walker), however the girls still won. After our night activities, the security guards came out to protect us from possums and the 'Dougie brothers' characters in a delightful story of terror told by one of the instructors while we sat around the campfire drinking our chocolate milk and eating cookies.

Our trip would not have been the same if not for our great instructors. All in all, our year group had a lot of fun bonding and strengthening our friendships over sweat and tears, but we know this would not have been possible if not for the wonderful opportunity given by the teachers who gave up their time to come with us, especially Mrs O'Neill. Thank you for giving us the experiences and skills we learned on our excursion with you.



By Bridget Galvin, Jordan Gaffney and Meg Hobson

CAREERS NEWS

Tips for job seekers (casual or full-time)

A new book aimed at helping young people get a job has been added to the library and is available from the Careers Room for perusal regarding hints on how to be a successful job hunter. These are some very good tips from the book.

Top 5 teen resume tips:

- ✓ **Write your own resume.** Do not get Mum or Dad to do it for you; after all they will not be there in the interview to answer the questions for you.
- ✓ **Write your availability on your resume.** When are you available to work? This is one of the most important pieces of information on your resume.
- ✓ **Write your date of birth on your resume.**
- ✓ **Have an appropriate email address.** Daddyslittleprincess@..... Is NOT appropriate! Instead use your first and last name@..... Or first initial and surname@.... This is simple and professional.

- ✓ **Tailor your resume to each employer.** Make sure your resume is tailored to each individual employer and addresses their specific needs and wants.

Top 5 teen interview tips:

- ✓ **You only get 30 seconds to make a first and lasting impression, so make it a good one.**
- ✓ **Always try and arrive 5-15 minutes early for your interview.**
- ✓ **Research the employer so you know as much as possible about their business and the products they offer.**
- ✓ **Prepare answers to possible questions you may be asked.**
- ✓ **Be honest and be yourself. Smile, sit up tall and look the interviewer in the eye. Believe that you are the best person for the job.**

Year 12 - HSC results and ATARs

Our Year 12 students will be receiving their results shortly. There will be joy, relief, happiness and disappointment, Advice is available and there are always options and pathways that may not be initially apparent. If a student is disappointed with their ATAR, I am more than willing to advise on possible options. I can be contacted at the school or via email by students or by parents. As the school is not advised of the ATAR that a student receives, we can only help if we are contacted.

I would be very upset to find that any of our students were too ashamed or embarrassed to seek advice. Students are encouraged to contact either Mrs Stuart or myself and all these enquiries will remain confidential. Our email addresses are: sstuart@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au and careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au. I will have university, TAFE and college resources with me over the holidays to advise students and parents throughout December and January.

The HSC is a stepping stone to your future. Please do not let it become a road-block.

Meet a Zoo Keeper

Year 10 student Dana Dehm attended Taronga Western Plains Zoo in October to participate in the "Meet a Zoo Keeper for a Day" program. Thirty students from Years 9 and 10 from several schools throughout NSW participated alongside Dana, who was accompanied by her mother on the day.

The program began with a talk from the general manager of the zoo who briefed the students on a variety of aspects the zoo has for employees, highlighting the need to volunteer as much as possible to gain experience from all areas.

Students gained an understanding of the behind scenes life of the zoo and how several occupations are required to run the zoo, including accountants, butchers, vets and so on.

Students had the opportunity to touch a variety of animals and visit the food preparation area. Observations were carried out on several animals' behaviour throughout the afternoon.



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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CAMP



On 28 November the McCarthy school bands travelled to Narrabri for a fun and educational music program. Over 130 students, with an array of different instruments and abilities, came from across NSW to join the Narrabri Concert Band at the Crossing Theatre.

Each student received tuition and was billeted for the three day camp. Students performed at a spectacular concert and performed new works learnt at camp.

The McCarthy Band would like to thank Mrs Lane for making the experience possible and Mr Ritchie for driving the bus.

"At the beginning of camp I was struggling to reach top F but now I am playing above the stave." Matthew Letton

"The songs that we played were high above what we usually play; what a great experience." Zoe Hannaford.

PARENT INFORMATION

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.

We wish all members of the McCarthy community a safe and holy Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous 2013.



CATHOLIC MISSION

Thank you for your support and fantastic effort during Mission Week.

Thank you teachers, parents and caregivers and **most of all to you – the students** who have made such a wonderful Mission week possible.

This year all the Catholic schools in the Armidale Diocese raised **\$42,725.64**. (compared with **\$30,211.42** in 2011)



Reach out. Give life.

I appreciate the **huge effort** of many of the schools to raise these funds for those children less fortunate and thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.

On behalf of Catholic Mission, I sincerely wish to thank you all for your generosity and hard work and wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

God bless.



Ms Linda Hanrahan – Diocesan Director Catholic Mission Armidale

SPORT

2012 has been another highly successful year for sport at McCarthy. For the second successive year McCarthy has been identified as one of the highest achieving Catholic schools in the state. There have been three state championship winning teams – the Intermediate Girls' Triathlon team, the Open Girls' tennis team and the U16 Boys' Hockey team. The Year 9/10 Boys' Basketball team has also gained a bronze medal at state CCC level.

On an individual level, six McCarthy students have represented school sports at state level.

While the school celebrates the achievement of these students at next week's Award Night, it also recognises the efforts of all McCarthy students who have represented the school or Tamworth at club, regional, state and national level in a host of sports.

Thanks must go to the team of McCarthy teachers and staff that volunteer countless hours in the administration and coaching of these students.

Congratulations to all on such a successful year in sport.

Mr Mark Falkenmire – Sports Organiser

Mass Times

St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth

St Nicholas Church

Monday 24	Children’s Mass	7.00pm
Monday 24	Midnight Mass	
Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
No Evening Mass on Christmas Day		

St Mary’s Church

Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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St Michael’s Catholic Community Church

Kootingal

Monday 24	Christmas Eve Mass	6.30pm
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Dungowan

Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	8.30am
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Nundle

Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	10.00am
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St Patrick’s Parish West Tamworth

Monday 24	Children’s Mass	5.30pm
Monday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am

St Edward’s Parish South Tamworth

Mary Help of Christians

Monday 24	Children’s Mass	6.00pm
Monday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	10.00pm
Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.00am
Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am
No Evening Mass Christmas Day		

St Brigid’s Parish Quirindi

Quirindi

Monday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am

Willow Tree

Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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St Michael’s Parish Manilla

Manilla

Monday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
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Attunga

Tuesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
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