

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer in the Steps of the Passion

Jesus, filled with sorrow during the agony in the garden, covered with a sweat of blood while praying, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, delivered into the hands of the wicked by a kiss, bound like a robber, and abandoned by your disciples, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, condemned to death by an unjust Council, taken as an evildoer before Pilate, and ridiculed by the wicked Herod, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, publicly shorn of your garments, and most cruelly scourged at the pillar, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, crowned with thorns, beaten and blindfolded, clothed in rich purple and mocked, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, likened to the infamous Barabbas, rejected by your people, and unjustly sentenced to death, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, burdened with the weight of the Cross and led to the place of execution like a lamb to the slaughter, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, reckoned with the wicked, blasphemed, and derided, and given gall to drink to mitigate your pain, have mercy on us, O Lord. Jesus, dying on the Cross in the presence of Mary, pierced with a lance that drew blood and water from your side, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, taken down and placed in the arms of your Sorrowful Mother, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Jesus, horribly bruised and marked with five wounds, anointed for burial and placed in a tomb, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Amen

Reflection

True encounter with Christ liberates something in us, a power we did not know we had, a hope, a capacity for life, resilience, an ability to bounce back when we thought we were completely defeated, a capacity to grow and change, a power of creative transformation. For Christians there is no defeat, because Christ is risen and lives in us all, and Christ has overcome all that seeks to destroy us, or to block us, or block our human and spiritual growth. (Thomas Merton)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

World Education Games

Congratulations to Ben Howard (Year 7) who placed 2nd in Australia and 10th in the world in Mathematics, and 3rd in Australia in Literacy in the 11-13 age division of the World Education Games. There were 5.3 million registered participants worldwide, representing 218 countries.

Ben received his medals in an awards ceremony at The Sydney Opera House on Tuesday 26 March 2013, presented by the Education Minister, Hon. Peter Garrett.

The World Education Games are an annual, global, online challenge to get students aged 4-18 years excited about learning and to provide the most capable students with an opportunity to see how they measure up against the best in the world.

The school community congratulates Ben on this outstanding achievement.



School Board and Association

The following positions on the Board have been filled by election or secondment. (Details of the Association AGM can be found on page 3.) Congratulations and appreciation are extended to all members of the Board and Association executives. The ongoing support of parents in these important partnerships is greatly appreciated.

Chair – Mrs Trish Thornberry

Secretary – Mrs Vicki Cooper

Finance Officer – Mr Adam Green

Association Rep – Mr Shaun O'Sullivan

Members – Mr Mark Grady, Mr Jonathan Beckett, Mrs Laura Hughes

Staff representative – Mr Dan Mitchell

Enrolments

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2014 are being accepted. Round 1 applications, for students coming from our Catholic feeder schools, will close on **Wednesday 10 April** and interviews will be conducted during Term 2. Applications for Round 2 will close on **Wednesday 26 June**, with interviews being held in Term 3.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

Woolworths Earn and Learn commences Monday 8 April and concludes mid-June. Last year we accumulated 23,000 points. Thank you to all who contributed. This year we are aiming for 30,000 points. These points enable the school to access a range of equipment and resources for students.

EASTER LITURGY TIMES

St Nicholas': Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm; Good Friday – Stations of the Cross 11.00am; Easter Saturday Vigil Mass 7.00pm; Easter Sunday 7.30am (St Mary's), 9.30am and 5.30pm.

St Patrick's: Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm; Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm; Easter Saturday Vigil Mass 7.00pm; Easter Sunday 9.30am and 5.30pm.

St Edward's: Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm; Good Friday 3.00pm; Easter Saturday Vigil Mass 7.00pm; Easter Sunday 9.00am and 5.30pm.

St Brigid's Quirindi: Good Friday 3.00pm; Easter Saturday Vigil 7.00pm; Easter Sunday 7.30am (Willow Tree) and 9.30am.

St Michael's Manilla: Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm; Good Friday – Stations of the Cross 3.00pm; Easter Saturday Vigil Mass 7.00pm (Attunga), Easter Sunday 9.30am.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

McCarthy Markets

Thank you to **everyone** who contributed to the Markets which were held again this year, as a fundraiser for Caritas. Many very generous donations were received and many parents, staff and students supported the event by assisting with, or by purchasing, from the various stalls /activities. Thank you one and all. The exact amount raised for Caritas this year will be known by the end of term. The following people were winners in the raffle which was drawn at the Markets:

Peter Virgen (signed cricket bat), Lauren MacRae, Jessie Stanton, Vickie Woods, Kierly Budd, Matt Feltrin, Margie Pink, Sophie McNamara, J Burt, Fran Mumford, Melissa Gardiner, Ashleigh Aspinell, Matt Dunn, Rachel Mierau, P Mooney and Olivia O'Shannessy

The winner of Ms Day's Homeclass ESD's guessing competition for the jar of M&Ms was Tahlia White of Year 12. Tahlia's guess of 2810 was the closest to the real number of M&Ms in the jar. Although Ms Davis' guess of 'a lot' was very close, the actual number was 2827. Thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to Tahlia.

Reconciliation

We greatly appreciate Father Roel and Father O'Brien giving up their time to make it possible for students in Year 10 to attend the sacrament of Reconciliation recently. We hope to be able to offer students the opportunity to attend Reconciliation throughout the year.

Easter

To mark the approaching Easter Season senior students took part in a reading of the Passion of Jesus according to St John, at assembly. All students were issued with a copy of this passage and it is hoped that they might include a reflection on it in their prayers over the Easter period. Students are encouraged to attend some, or all, of the Easter liturgies in their parish church over Easter.

When should we give Easter Eggs? Some might think 'anytime' but this was clarified recently in communication from the CSO. "Easter Eggs in the Catholic and Christian Tradition are given during the Season of Easter, typically on Easter Sunday to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord."

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

ANZAC Day is a day of special significance for Australia; a time when we pause to acknowledge the contribution made by service men and women to our nation. This year, the commemorative events fall in the school holidays, on the second Thursday. McCarthy will participate in the ANZAC Day events - at the Dawn Service, ANZAC March and Main service at the Town Hall, and at services in Quirindi and Manilla. All students are encouraged to attend, in full winter uniform, and to act with reverence throughout each of the services.

- Dawn Service - 5.30am ANZAC Park Gates
- Tamworth March – 10.00am (assemble in Bourke St from 9.30am)
- Tamworth Memorial Town Hall – 11.00am.

Students in Quirindi and Manilla should check with local RSL branches for beginning times.

Literacy and Numeracy

In order to support Literacy and Numeracy development at McCarthy, the Catholic Schools Office has funded online tests for all students in Years 7-10. The results of these tests, Pat Maths and Pat Reading, will provide baseline data for improvement programs. Years 7 and 8 students will complete the tests in Week 10 of this term, while students in Years 9 and 10 will complete their tests in Week 1 of Term 2.

Winter Uniform

The first two weeks of Term 2 will be a transition time for students to changeover to Winter uniform. Students may wear full Summer, or full Winter uniform in Weeks 1 and 2. All students are expected to be in full Winter uniform by the beginning of Week 3. Please take the time over the holidays to check the length and fit of Winter uniform items. The Uniform Policy for McCarthy is available on the website.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Harrison Diss following the passing of his grandmother.

Welcome

We welcome Angela Barton and Georgina Lansdown (Year 9) and their families into the McCarthy community.

Year 7 Parent Information Night

On Wednesday 27 March Year 7 parents and carers attended a *Partnership in Learning* Information Evening. The discussion of topics including Moodle, Hotmaths, student planners and homework, should assist parents and carers in supporting their child's learning.

Preparing for Winter

Please encourage your child to start preparing for colder weather by checking that they have all winter uniform items. Remember all tunics must be below the knee and socks /tights must be above the knee. Ties must be worn with winter uniforms. Please label all items, in particular jumpers, sports tops and track suit pants.

Theme for the Week

Friday 15 March was National Anti-Bullying Day. We announced an Anti-Bullying Talent Competition which will close at the end of Week 2, Term 2. Students are encouraged to enter songs, written pieces, art works, scripts etc. Our Anti-Bullying theme discussed the nature of bullying, how to help prevent it occurring and what to do if it is happening.

"How Have I Started" asked students to assess their progress this term.

- Do they have all necessary equipment and is it labelled and accessible?
- At home, how are they managing their time and work space?
- In and out of class, what are they doing to improve their learning?
- Are they using the additional resources on offer, e.g. Study Club, Mathshelp, HOTmaths?

Self-evaluation is an essential step in achieving goals.

Each of us is different. Expect it. Accept it. Respect it. (Anon)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION**Association AGM**

Thank you to parents who attended the AGM last week. The Office Bearers for 2013 are:

President: Tracey Carrington

Vice President: Stan Heuston, Emma Swivel-Beckett

Treasurer: Laura Hughes

Secretary: Louise Henry

Board Representative: Shaun O'Sullivan

Committee Members: Marie Rice, Ken Macpherson, Carol Tallar, Kim Pearson and Wayne Henry.

Car Boot Sale

A Car Boot "May"hem Sale will be held on Saturday 18 May. Further details will be available after our next meeting in April.

To keep up to date on topics covered at our monthly meetings please go to www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au, click on McCarthy Parent Association and follow the links to meetings.

CAREERS NEWS

Last week over 60 students attended the Health Careers Forum run by University of Newcastle Department of Rural Health. Students listened to talks on nine different health careers and then had the opportunity to attend sessions for more information on each of these, including hands-on experiences with ultrasound and patient care scenarios; quite a few returned with arms in plaster casts. It was a very informative and worthwhile opportunity for the students.

The next major event will be the UNE Open Day excursion on Friday 3 May. Year 12 students are asked to check emails and the Daily Notices if they are interested in attending.

The Sydney Morning Herald HSC and Careers Expo will be held from Thursday 30 May to Sunday 2 June from 10am – 3.00pm at the Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park. The Expo brings together over 140 exhibitors providing HSC, tertiary course, career, study skills and gap year information and resources. Exhibitors include Australia's major universities. The Expo also features 120 seminars on HSC subjects, tertiary courses, career and study advice. Admission is \$10 or \$25 for families of 3 or more (children 14 and under are free) and is valid for all 4 days of the Expo. Mrs Barrett has some complimentary tickets and the seminar program if you are interested and able to attend.

Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor



careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

HSC MUSIC WORKSHOPS

On 14 and 15 March, Years 11 and 12 Music 2 students attended the HSC Music Workshops at Armidale Conservatorium of Music. Students participated in group performance sessions, looked at exam techniques for Musicology and Aural Tutorials, techniques for confidence in sight singing sessions, as well as individual tutorials. Students had the opportunity to speak with HSC markers as well as the Sydney based composer, conductor and performer, Dan Walker. Students found these workshops to be of great benefit, especially for organisation and preparation for the HSC.

Mrs Suzanne Perfrement – Music Teacher

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COMPETITION 2013

Congratulations to the students from Years 8, 9 and 10 who took part in the Science and Engineering Challenge held at TREC on Tuesday 19 March and Wednesday 20 March. Years 9 and 10 students' efforts on the day earned them Champion School, the first time McCarthy has had this honour. The final score was a huge 1111 out of a possible 1500. The Year 8 team, in the Discovery Challenge, only missed out on first place by 11 points to Farrer. A special mention must go to our 1st placed Year 9 and 10 teams, 'The Bridge', 'Eco – Habitat' and 'The Flight' (morning session). All participating students



were exceptional ambassadors for our school and worked together extremely well, in teams, to solve the challenges put before them. Well done to all. As special thank must also go to the organising and accompanying teachers Mrs Melissa Lees, Miss Frances Mumford and Mr Brian Kells. By all accounts, all students had a very enjoyable experience and the Year 9/10 team are looking forward to the next level in the State Challenge. Demand by students to take part in next year's challenge will undoubtedly be high.



Mr James Vella – Science Coordinator

EUROPEAN CULTURAL EXCURSION 2014

Expressions of interest are called for the European Cultural Excursion 2014. The trip focus is on Italy, France and the Battle Fields of WW1. We will be travelling during the April school holidays for 3 weeks. The cost, including all fares, admissions, accommodation, guides and most meals, is around \$7500.

If anyone is interested in being a traveller in 2014 please contact Denise McHugh dmchugh@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

SPORT

NSWCCC Tennis

Congratulations to Zoe Martin who has been selected as one of eight members of the NSWCCC Open Girls' Tennis team at trials in Parramatta. She will now play at the NSW All Schools Championships in Bathurst for a place in the NSW All Schools team to play the Pizzey Cup (Australian Championships) in Toowoomba.

Rugby League

On Friday 15 March, Sam Collett, Tom Keogh and Daniel Morris attended the Under 15 Rugby League Diocesan trials in Armidale. Sam and Daniel were selected to attend the Northern NSW CCC Rugby League selection trials to be held at Smithtown on 10 April. Those two boys also attended the NSWCCC Development Camp for Under 15 Rugby League players at the Sydney Academy of Sport at Narrabeen on 16 and 17 March.

Touch Football

On Friday 22 March, twenty one students attended the Diocesan trials in Gunnedah. Rosie Ferguson, Ella Heeney, Cara Paterson, Brittany Coe, Chloe Coe, Brodii Ingram, Bridget Kerrigan, Sophie Soles, Patrick Ferguson, Jye Paterson, Kerrod Binge and Brayden Grehan were selected to play in the NSWCCC Touch championships in Penrith on 5 June.

Football (Soccer)

On Thursday 21 March, seven students attended football trials in Bathurst. Matthew Dunn, Rhett Graham and Sophie Soles were selected to play in the NSWCCC Football Championships, also being held in Bathurst on 27 and 28 May.

McCarthy Cricket 2012/2013 Season

Once again, McCarthy Catholic College was represented in every age/year division. Our Year 7 team played in a non-competitive competition. Thank you to Mr Murray Lang for looking after the Year 7 team.

A record breaking three teams entered the Year 7/8 competition. Thank you to the coaches, Mr John Murrie, Mr David Cumming and Mr Chris Paterson. Thank you to Mr Paterson for running a coaching session every week. Congratulations to Jye Paterson who was named Junior Cricketer of the year.

In the Year 9/10 competition, the two McCarthy teams, coached respectively by Mr Gus Comi and Mr Rob Hislop, played each other in the grand final. McCarthy Gold came out winners. Thank you to both coaches.

The McCarthy Opens' team made the final of the Ron George competition. The team, although out played on the day, showed great sportsmanship. Thank you to Mr Peter Virgen for coaching. We wish all our Year 12 players the best of luck for the future and thank them for their great contribution to McCarthy Cricket. Thank you to all parents who score and support our teams.

Thank you Club President Mr Bernie Williams for his continued support, as well Mrs Natalie Paterson and Mrs Maureen Alderton who support and work tirelessly for MCC Cricket Club.