

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

A Family Prayer for the Year of Faith

*O God our loving Father,
through our Baptism
you have gifted us with grace and
opened the door of faith.*

*In Jesus your Son
you call all Christian families and
homes to be signs of living faith.*

*By the light of the Holy Spirit,
lead us to be thankful
for the gift of faith,
and by that gift may we grow in
our relationship with
Jesus your Son
and be confident witnesses
of Christian hope and
joy to all we meet.*

*We make this prayer in the name of
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Diary Dates

12 April:	Last day of Term 1
25 April:	ANZAC Day
29 April:	Pupil Free Day
29 April:	Staff RE Professional Development Day
30 April:	Term 2 commences
30 April:	Association Meeting
3 May:	UNE Open Day
14 May:	NAPLAN (Years 7 & 9)
17 May:	Year 8 Maths Challenge – UNE
17 May:	Gunnedah Eisteddfod
18 May:	Association "May"hem Car Boot Sale
21 May:	ICAS Computer Competition
21 May:	Board & Association Meetings
22 May:	Careers Expo
22 May:	Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews
24 May:	Association Pie Drive orders due
27 May:	Year 7 & 11 Half-Yearly Exams start
31 May:	St Nicholas' Deb Ball
3 June:	Years 8, 9, 10 Half-Yearly Exams start
5 June:	ICAS Science Competition
5 June:	Year 7 Camp
10 June:	Long Weekend
17 June:	ICAS Writing Competition
18 June:	ICAS Spelling Competition
18 June:	Board & Association Meetings
24 June:	Whole School Mass
26 June:	Years 7 & 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews

The Year of Faith runs from October 11, 2012 – November 24, 2013, from the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council until the Solemnity of Christ the King the following year.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Pupil-free Day

Term 2 will commence for students on **Tuesday 30 April**. On Monday 29 April, staff will be engaged in a training day on the Australian Curriculum. All schools have been provided this additional day to work on implementation of the NSW Syllabuses of the Australian Curriculum, due to be introduced in schools next year. Initially, secondary schools will implement new English, Mathematics, History and Science curricula into Years 7 and 9 in 2014.

Phone App

The school has purchased a school-based app for Android and Smart phones. We will be introducing the app early next term and look forward to the benefits it will bring to communication with parents.

Family Support Group

For many years now staff members at McCarthy have been providing financial and pastoral support to families facing particularly difficult circumstances. In 2009, with the support of a group of parents, the Family Support Group was formed. This group conducts a number of fundraising events during the course of the year that enable the school to provide individualised support to students and families. This may be in the form of uniform assistance, meals, school supplies, etc. The group also provides hampers that are distributed at Christmas time.

The next Family Support Group fundraiser will be the Pie Drive, to be conducted in May. Please keep your eye out for the order form early next term.

Year 7 Partnership in Learning Information Night

Thank you to all parents who attended the information night regarding academic support on Wednesday 27 March. If any parent who missed the evening would like information or would like to meet to discuss parent partnership in learning, please contact the school administration (admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au).

State Funding Cuts to Catholic Schools: Update for Diocesan Communities - Information Note 1 (of 5)

The NSW Government cuts in funding for NSW Catholic schools have created considerable uncertainty and anxiety among Catholic schools communities. These cuts occurred despite the Government's March 2011 election promise to Catholic school parents not to reduce recurrent or capital funding for Catholic schools.

In coming weeks a series of five Information Notes will explain the nature of the NSW Government's funding reductions and their likely impact on our Catholic schools over the period 2013 to 2017.

The Information Notes will address three key issues that impact our Diocesan schools;

1. Recurrent Grants (that assist with school operating costs)

2. Capital Grants (that assist with building and refurbishment)
3. Teacher Development for the new NSW syllabuses for the Australian curriculum.

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.

Holidays

I look forward to continuing our partnership in Term 2 and, on behalf of the staff, wish all families a happy and safe vacation.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

What are the Year of Grace and Year of Faith?

The Year of Grace is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops in response to local issues, while the Year of Faith, announced by Pope Benedict, is a call to the universal Church. While planned independently of each other, both have as their goal, a renewal of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Year of Grace invites us into a spiritual journey of encountering Christ afresh in our lives through prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, celebrating liturgies, repenting of our failures and listening to the voice of the Spirit.

The Year of Faith calls us into a deep renewal of our faith through retracing the history of our faith, studying the Catechism, praying the Creed and seeking to be an active witness of what we believe.

These two 'Years' complement each other and provide opportunities for us to discover and nurture the gifts of 'grace' and 'faith' at work in our lives.

Vinnies

Junior members of Vinnies accompanied Mr Paul Hobbs to the Children's Ward at the Hospital on Holy Thursday to deliver Easter Eggs, books and soft toys for children who were there at the time or who might come in over Easter. Funds for the purchase of these gifts were raised by senior members who organised busking at lunchtime on the school terrace.

Caritas

The final amount raised for Caritas' Project Compassion over the Lenten period was \$8,000. This is a very significant amount of money and we very sincerely thank all those who contributed to the McCarthy Markets and to the Project Compassion boxes during Lent. This will greatly assist Caritas in their work in places of need.

Assessment

All students will have completed at least one assessment task in RE or Studies of Religion this past term. We congratulate students who have approached these tasks with commitment and diligence. Students who did not achieve an acceptable standard in these tasks will be interviewed in an effort to improve their performance in future tasks..

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 Street from 9.30am)
- Tamworth Memorial Town Hall – 11.00am.

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

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

Welcome

We welcome Georgina Lansdown (Year 9) and her family into the McCarthy community.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wade family following the death of their grandfather and also with Ms Kathryn O'Sullivan and Molly and Alice Lyden following the death of their grandmother.

Holiday Organisation

Organisation is a key to success. During the break, please encourage your child to:

- Complete, file and summarise all Term 1 notes and tasks
- Check and replenish stationary supplies
- Check Winter uniform items are clean, in good repair and meet requirements
- Evaluate goals and change if necessary.

Sport Shoes

Thank you to those parents who have bought white sports shoes as required. Please note that all sport laces should also be white.

Theme for the Week

Study Tips were given during Week 10. Students were encouraged to get started, make a study plan, use the information in some activity rather than just read and make a summary, and to practise test/exam questions. Study methods are listed on page 139 of the junior Student Planner and page 21 in the senior Student Planner.

In the last week of Term 1, Homeclasses discussed forgiveness – who has forgiven, who should forgive, how to forgive and why we should forgive. This is an interesting family dinner table topic.

To err is human, to forgive is divine. – Alexander Pope

Year 7

Thank you to Year 7 students for a wonderful start to the 2013 academic year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet students and parents and I look forward to continuing that association as the year progresses.

I trust that students have experienced an enjoyable beginning to their secondary schooling at McCarthy Catholic College.

Stay safe and have a great holiday break. I look forward to an exciting Term 2, highlighted by the Outdoor Education Camp at Morisset commencing on Wednesday 5 June.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Next Meeting – April 30

On the Agenda, for the next Association meeting on Tuesday April 30, will be the formation of the Country Music Committee and the Car Boot Sale. Thank you to the three people who volunteered to be on the Country Music Committee. We will need a couple more to ensure another successful year and ask parents to please consider joining this committee by attending the April Meeting.

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 on April 30.

Pie Drive

A Pie Drive will be held early next term. Order forms will be distributed to students in the first week of Term 2. Spare forms will be available at the office. Closing date for the orders is Friday, 24 May.



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

This term culminates with the organisation of the excursion for Year 12 students to attend the UNE Open Day in Armidale on May 3 which is the last day of the first week back in Term 2. Permission notes and money are due at the end of this week.

Last week, over twenty Year 12 students attended a lunchtime talk giving suggestions to those who are undecided about their plans for life after the HSC. Interviews with Year 12 students are continuing.

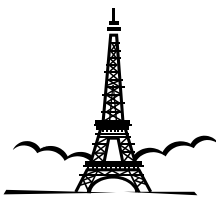
I urge students to take time over the holidays to explore and discuss career and study plans with their family and to possibly visit some of the potential universities and colleges. Exploring options using the Careers page is a good idea: www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/ This applies especially to students in Years 10 and 12.

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

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

Equestrian Team

On Friday 22 March, ten McCarthy Catholic College students attended the first Horse Sports for the year at Manilla. Over one hundred students attended from various schools, competing in a wide range of events from riding classes to sporting events and a top score jumping event. Students displayed great McCarthy sportsmanship with all attending taking out a ribbon or two. Students attending on the day were: Ben Collett (Year 12), Clare Hockings (Year 12), Michael Hockings (Year 9), Sam Collett (Year 9), Natasha Achurch (Year 9), Bella Burr-Clift (Year 8), Jesse Cutcliffe (Year 8), Tammy Rolls (Year 7), Emma Dumble (Year 7) and Georgia Achurch (Year 7).

Well done to all students.

Mrs Julie Kellahan – Equestrian Coordinator

Bill Turner Cup Under 15 Boys

Round 1 of the Bill Turner Cup was played on Tuesday with McCarthy playing against Farrer under very warm conditions at Gipps Street Fields in Tamworth.

Farrer proved dominant in the first half scoring two unanswered goals. McCarthy played extremely well in the second half scoring 1 goal to Farrer's 1 goal. Ben Foster scored for McCarthy with a great solo run through Farrer's defences. The final score was 3 -1 to Farrer.

Thank you to McCarthy for their sportsmanship on and off the football field, Mr Herden for driving the school bus and to Mr Rindo for accompanying the students.

The team consisted of: Ben Foster, Alex Stuart, Lachlan Cumming, Jack Rindo, Jack Beckett, Zac Alexander, Bailey McGilvray, Blake Sissons, Tom Kelly, Max Chillingworth, Connor Murphy, Matthew Pannowitz, Henry Stanford, James Berthold, Carl Herden and Dominic Sills.

Tamworth Peel Valley Lions Club **Offers ALL drivers the chance to...**



Low Risk Driving & Awareness Courses

When: Saturday May 4 OR Sunday May 5 2013

8am to 4pm with morning tea and lunch included.

Subsidised by Peel Valley Lions so only \$65.

(Normally \$300)

Nationally accredited Driving Instructors from Sydney will give you practical tuition to help make you a safer and more aware driver.

Have you considered you may benefit from a refresher course?

Open to L platers who are accompanied by a licensed driver.

Contact David Gilroy 6765 7769

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register is hosted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and is the first national register of children in Australia with vision impairment. The Register has been collecting data since 2009, and this data is providing important information about the types of eye disease and vision disorders children have and the support they need. The data is also used by service providers and researchers. Data is stored securely and no child can be identified in any way when the data is released.

How can families register their child?

Families are invited to register their child (aged 0-18 years) if they have vision impairment in both eyes which has been diagnosed by an eye specialist or ophthalmologist. Registration can be done by contacting Register staff on (02) 9872 0303, or by visiting the VI Family Network website: www.vifamilynetwork.org.au. This website also contains low vision resources and events that families might find helpful.