

# Newsletter

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**Dear Parents & Students,**

## ***Prayer for the Year of Faith***

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. May our efforts to fulfil this mission be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we might be a leaven of new life, salt of the earth, and a light of the world – worthy missionaries and faithful to you. Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church, and inspire us to speak the truth with love. Help us to communicate to others the joy that we have received. Allow us to be united and not closed; humble, and not fearful; simple but not naïve; thoughtful and not overbearing; contemporary but not superficial, respectful of others, but boldly your disciples. May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ the Lord, who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## **Reflection**

"...They called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith..."(Acts 14:27).

In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that God opened the door of faith for the early Church. Over the past twelve months, during the Year of Faith, God has also opened the door of faith for each one of us and invited us to step through into a deeper relationship with him. It has been an opportunity for every Catholic to turn towards Jesus Christ, encountering him in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and to rediscover or strengthen their faith. The Year of Faith concluded on 24 November – the Feast of Christ the King.

## **PRINCIPAL MATTERS**

### **Academic Culture**

2013 has seen a major focus on improving the academic culture of the school. This has involved considerable research, data analysis and reflection. Staff members across the school have been working to develop a number of large and small scale interventions which will be implemented over the next few years. Some significant changes have begun to be implemented and will be operating from the commencement of the new school year.

One of the changes that will be implemented from the commencement of the year is a variation to pastoral care structures. From 2014, Year Coordinators will be allocated to a Year cohort and will remain with the Year rather than the cohort. That means that Coordinators will be appointed as specialists in each age group. For example, the Year 7 and Year 12 Coordinators will be transition specialists focussing on the specific needs of students as they move into and out of secondary education.

Year Coordinator appointments from 2014 are as follows:

Year 7: Miss Melissa Gardner  
 Year 8: Mr Andrew Davy  
 Year 9: Mr Bernie Williams  
 Year 10: Mrs Fiona O'Neill  
 Year 11: Mr Dan Mitchell  
 Year 12: Mrs Libby Molony

More information about improvements will be provided early in the new year and opportunities for parent engagement in the process will be provided at various stages of implementation.

### **Creative Arts Evening**

Last Monday evening families, friends and staff were treated to a cultural feast as students of the Creative Arts displayed their gifts and the fruits of their hard work during the year. A static exhibition of art works, live and video dramatic performances and musical performances provided an entertaining evening for all. The musical program ranged from the Jazz and Concert Bands and Saxophone quartet to popular ballads and opera. Members of the audience were impressed by the depth and breadth of the talent in the school. Congratulations are extended to all the staff and students involved.

### **Transition**

An Information Evening was held on Tuesday for the parents of students entering the school in 2014. The following day, students entering Year 7 next year participated in an Orientation Day at the school. Both of these events are important for the smooth transition of students into the school. Transition Booklets have been distributed to students and parents to assist with this process.

### **Diary Dates**

2 Dec: Year 9 Tea Gardens Excursion  
 2 Dec: Band to Narrabri  
 3 Dec: Year 9 2014 Elective Information Evening  
 3 Dec: Board Christmas Function  
 4 Dec: Canteen Dinner  
 11 Dec: Founders Day  
 16 Dec: Award Night  
 17 Dec: Year 10 Dinner/Dance  
 19 Dec: Pupil Free Day  
 20 Dec: Pupil Free Day/Last day of Term 4  
**2014**  
 28 Jan: Staff return  
 29 Jan: Year 7 & 11 students commence  
 30 Jan: All students return

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Tyson Zwolsman who has been successful in securing a place at the National Computer Science School, being held at Sydney University in January of 2014. Tyson was also awarded a monetary scholarship to assist with costs.

*Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****Vinnies**

The induction of the new Vinnies leaders will be held at St Nicholas' Church at the 7.00am First Friday Mass on Friday 6 December. We encourage students and parents to attend this special occasion.

The major fundraising effort for Vinnies this term will be the Christmas Appeal. Students are planning a bake sale and a number of activities to raise funds for this cause.

*Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators*

**PASTORAL CARE****Guest Speaker**

Year 10 students attended an informative and inspirational presentation by Anj Barker and her parents last week. Anj, now 26, was the victim of relationship violence at age 16. The elite sportswoman, SLC member and high achieving student was attacked by her ex-boyfriend and was considered lucky to survive. She was left with severe head injuries, was in a coma for 9 months and could not speak for 5 years. Today Anj, a recipient of the Victorian Young Australian of the Year Award, is hoping young people can learn from her experiences. Her messages included:

- If a relationship feels wrong, it most probably is.
- If your parents and friends are telling you that your partner is not good for you, then you should listen.
- No abuse, verbal or physical is acceptable.
- When in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, maintain your old friendships and spend some time with other people.
- Never end a relationship in an isolated place. Make sure responsible people are nearby.

To me, Anj's most inspirational message was that of the power of resilience. Through the love of her parents and friends, her positive attitude, the setting of goals and her persistence in pursuing them, Anj has achieved some amazing milestones. The students were most attentive and appreciative of the experience.

**Student Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who recently were presented with Achievement Awards.

Year 7: Anna Crisp, Eleanor George, Molly Johns, Charlotte Mills

Year 8: Tiarn Bayliss, Jessica Higgins, Jeffrey Lane, Karie Mayman, Molly Moroney, Gio Sancho, Abby Stevenson

Year 9: Olivia Miller, Harry Mills, Melanie Pearson, Douglas Pianta, Patrick Sparke, Emily Thompson, Phoebe Thornberry

Year 10: Nathan Climpson, Jack McSweeney, Mikayla Thompson

Year 11: Rhys Chillingworth, Hannah Pendergast, Denikah Ruttley, Emily Thrift.

**Lions Youth of the Year Awards**

Congratulations to Dana Dehm and Priyanka Pinto of Year 11 who represented McCarthy at the Lions Youth of The Year Competition at Tamworth and Kootingal Clubs. This involved written submissions, an interview and public speaking. Both girls were highly commended and Dana was the winner of the Public Speaking section.

**Theme of The Week**

The students were reminded of the meaning of responsibility and its place in our *Code of Conduct* – Care, Courtesy, Respect and Responsibility. It is important to remember that we may not be responsible for all the things that happen to us, but we are responsible for the way we react to them.

Students were encouraged to SUPPORT EACH OTHER. This would 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*

**MATHEMATICS**

Some students are enquiring about text books for next year – it is wonderful to see their enthusiasm. For Year 7 and Year 9 2014 the Australian Curriculum is being introduced therefore students will need to purchase new text books.

Year 7: Maths Quest 7 New South Wales Australian Curriculum Edition

Year 9: Maths Quest 9 New South Wales Australian Curriculum Edition Stages 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.

Year 8 and Year 10 2014 are still operating under the old curriculum therefore some second hand texts will be available for sale in Week 2 of Term 1.

Year 8: Connections Maths 8

Year 10: Maths Quest 10 (Stage 5.3 Mr Godden and Mrs McGregor; Stage 5.2 Miss Harvey, Mrs Sommerlad and Mrs O'Neill).

Each class is still working through their course and it is important to remember that everything students do in Mathematics is an important building block for the next step.

Solution to the last puzzle: 8

New puzzle: The average of five numbers is 4. Four of them are 1, 2, 3 and 4. What is the other number?

*Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator*

## CAREERS NEWS

### For incoming Year 12 students and parents

A free copy of *Getting Through Your HSC: A Practical Guide* is available online for staff, students and their parents with the compliments of the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Sydney. It covers general health and well-being advice on stress throughout the HSC and preparation for exams. The 16 page guide can be downloaded at: <https://cce.app.box.com/shared/gbnprz5ovq>

### Work Experience

There are a few keen students who are actively searching for apprenticeships and traineeships and are increasing their chances of success by doing Work Experience this term. All the instructions, including the initial application form to do Work Experience can be found on the school's website at:

<http://mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/work-experience/>

There is a lot of time consuming paperwork involved which ensures Work Experience meets all the legal requirements protecting the interests of the student, employer, school and the Work Experience insurance company.

### Year 12

The universities are beginning to send out notification of successful Early Entry offers. Students whose applications have been successful, are reminded to please follow the instructions if they intend to take up the offer and do not lose the notification. December 3 is the date by which students must nominate the course for which they wish to receive an offer in the Early Round. Students are advised to do this and accept the offer made in the Early Round (December 5) and then once they get their ATAR, they may choose to make another course their first preference in order that they can possibly receive another offer in the main round in January. It is possible to get more than one offer by carefully following instructions and taking actions by certain deadlines. Not all students who apply for Early Entry are successful, with the universities making their offers based on the school's recommendations and on the competition for the number of places they put aside for Early Entry applications. Students still may be successful in gaining the ATAR required or may look at alternative pathways to university. I have a folder full of alternative pathways to university depending on what students want to do and where they want to study. Please contact me if this is required.

### Year 13

Year 13 is a website that offers a different perspective on life after school. They have broken down the options available so students can find out about jobs, studying, gap years, travelling, apprenticeships, money and discounts. Go to: [www.year13.com.au/](http://www.year13.com.au/)

*Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Advisor*  
[careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)

## ROTARY PUBLIC SPEAKING

On Monday 18 November, Ruth Makwara represented McCarthy in the Rotary Public Speaking Zone Final at Manilla. Ruth spoke with flair and confidence but unfortunately was unsuccessful in winning through to the combined Zone Finals in Moree next year. We thank her and congratulate her on the time she devoted to preparing her engaging speeches.

*Mrs Katrina Sullivan – English KLA Coordinator*

## PARENT INFORMATION

### Family Fund Appeal – Christmas Hampers

The Family Fund Appeal is seeking your assistance again in donating items for the Christmas Hampers. These hampers will be distributed to families who have experienced adversity throughout the year. Donations can be left at the school office before Friday 13 December. We thank you for your support.

### Trivia Night

A big thank you to all who came along to the Trivia Night and contributed to a fun evening. Thank you to those who donated prizes toward the night. Congratulations to the winner of the Gold Coast raffle, Mitch Goodwin and the winner of the iPod Shuffle, Mrs Lesley O'Shea.

Our first meeting for 2014 is Tuesday 18 February and we look forward to another year of social events and support of our school.

To keep up-to-date on topics covered at our monthly meetings please go to [www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au), click on McCarthy Parent Association and follow the links to meetings.

## SPORT

### Waterpolo

Jarrold Chester and Jayden Gimbergh travelled to Ryde on 17 November to the NSWCCC Boys' Water Polo Trials. Both boys were selected in the 26 member squad. There will be two teams for NSWCCC to play at the NSW All Schools at Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga next year on 10 March against NSWCHS and NSWCIS. One team will be the NSWCCC, while the other will be a development team.

McCarthy Catholic College

Family Fund Appeal



# Christmas Hampers



## ***Get Into the Christmas Spirit of Giving***

The Family Fund appeal is seeking your assistance once again, in donating items that can be placed in Christmas Hampers. These hampers will then be delivered to families who have experienced adversity throughout the year

### *Ideas for Hampers include:*

- *Christmas pies, biscuits*
- *Bags of sweets, soft drinks, packets of chips*
- *Pasta packets, pasta sauces*
- *Tissues, toilet paper*
- *Tinned food*
- *Chocolates and so on.*

**Donations can be left at the School office .**

**To allow hampers to be delivered in time please leave donations by**

**Friday 13 December 2013**



**Should you require further information please contact Lynda Dehm**

**0411 287090**

**Please ensure used-by dates have not expired.  
Thank you**

