

Newsletter



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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Lord Jesus
 You come to us and call us to serve.
 Open our ears, our hearts and our hands to your call;
 Grant us the courage and generosity to serve in your name.
 Where there is hunger, illness, grief, or other hardship,
 let us see the opportunity to feed, to clothe, to heal, to comfort and to love.
 We pray in your name, the one who lives and reigns with God the Father
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Reflection

Do you need a break from the hectic pace of this time of year? Advent prayers remind us to stop and take time to focus on what really counts this time of year, to prepare for the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ. During Advent, we await the celebration of Jesus's birth at Christmas while taking stock of our readiness for His return. The season of Advent precedes Christmas. Starting with the first Sunday closest to November 30, it marks the first season of the church's Liturgical year.

Advent reminds us to give of ourselves and to be open to reflecting on Christ's presence in our lives, as we think about His being born in a manger in Bethlehem to redeem us from our sins so that we may share Eternal Life with Him in Heaven.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

As this is the final Newsletter for 2013, I wish all families, on behalf of the staff, a joyous, holy and grace-filled Christmas Season and a happy New Year. We wish those families who have finished their time at McCarthy best wishes for the future. We look forward to working with those returning in 2014 as we embrace a new year of opportunity.

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

Filipino Benefit Concert

On Saturday 7 December, McCarthy hosted the local Filipino Benefit Concert to raise funds to support communities impacted by Typhoon Haiyan. The concert showcased a wide range of musical talent from across the region, including Filipino and non-Filipino performers. The school congratulates the organising committee for the standard of the performances and organisation.

Award Night

The annual Award Night will be held this Monday, 16 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, especially Jenny Hatfield in the Clothing Pool and all our loyal Canteen helpers. Thank you also to members of the McCarthy Association and the Board for your faithful and dedicated service throughout 2013.

Farewell

This year we farewell Mrs Carol Wheaton, a long-term staff member who is retiring. We also farewell Mr Rob Maxwell (Farm Assistant), Mrs Jane Sleeman (part-time job-share) and Mr Kieran MacRae (GAP Year IT Support). Mr Peter Belson and Mr Mark Falkenmire will be taking extended leave. New appointments will be announced in the first newsletter of the year next year.

Bishop's Statement and Pastoral Letter on the Royal Commission

A pastoral statement from Bishop Michael Kennedy and a commitment statement from leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia are available on the diocesan website <http://armidale.catholic.org.au/royal-commission/>

Congratulations

Year 12 student, Jerome Studdy, has had his HSC Music composition nominated for Encore - the presentation in March at the Opera House of the top 2013 HSC Music works from across the state. Jerome is the second McCarthy student to be nominated this year. Laura Heuston's performance was also nominated by the HSC examiners. This is due recognition of the outstanding work of these students.

Year 12 Breakfast Barbecue

Students from Year 12 2013 are invited to a breakfast barbecue with staff on the morning of Friday 20 December from 7.30am. The barbecue will provide an opportunity for students to come together again to discuss results and future directions. Careers advice and support will be available to assist students with important decisions to be made once results are known. It is hoped that most students will be able to attend.

Diary Dates

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

Australian All Schools' Track and Field Championships

Congratulations to Ella Heeney who won a bronze medal in the 14 years girls' 800m at the Australian All Schools' Track and Field Championships in Townsville. The school community applauds Ella for her outstanding sporting achievements this year.

Council Bike Survey

Tamworth Regional Council is currently in the process of updating the Council Bike Plan. Part of this process involves obtaining feedback through a community survey.

The Council's updated Bike Plan will outline priorities for installation of bike paths and bike facilities (such as secure parking areas for bikes). It will also assist Council in securing funding from the State and Federal Government for these works.

The survey is tailored to all levels of cyclists - even non-cyclists. The survey is open until 20 December. <http://floq.co/3b1XJ>.

Return Dates

Dates for return to school in 2014 are as follows:

Tuesday 28 January – staff return

Wednesday 29 January – Students in Year 11 and all students new to the school commence (including Year 7)

Thursday 30 January – All other students return.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

2013 has been a very full year for all aspects of school life. Each week, each term, is filled with learning cultural, social and spiritual endeavours. This is the lived embodiment of our motto – Receive. Worship. Serve.

I would like to wish all families a holy and peace-filled Christmas.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Philippines' Appeal

Students at McCarthy were encouraged to support those suffering from the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan, which recently struck the Philippines. Moved by images of this devastation and the knowledge that a number of our students have family in the Philippines, students responded to an appeal made at assembly through donations to a bucket drop and support of the sale of t-shirts and the concert organised by the local priests, Fr Roel and Fr Abmar.

Vinnies/Patrons Day

A Christmas themed mufti day was held on Wednesday and Vinnies leaders organised a bake sale as fundraisers for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. This day coincided with our initial Patrons' Day which was designed to promote and celebrate our House Patrons. In addition to this an art competition was held to seek designs for four stained-glass windows which will depict the House Patrons; these will be located along the front of the Hall. This day was also appropriate to acknowledge the gift of an orange tree given to us by the Dominican Order. It was grafted from root stock which came from a village in Italy where St Dominic lived.

As the end of the year approaches we would like to thank all those who contributed to Religious Education at McCarthy this year, particularly the clergy, and we wish everyone a holy, happy and restful Christmas.



Alternate Schoolies Immersion – Catholic Mission

In November 2012, twelve Year 12 students and three teachers from Beaconsfield, in Victoria, travelled to East Timor with Catholic Mission as part of an immersion program. This was an opportunity to learn about the issues

facing one of our nearest and poorest neighbours. These senior students opted to forgo the usual 'schoolies' experience to learn about the struggle of East Timor as a new nation and of the hopes and dreams of their people. For all those who went on this trip it was a life changing experience. From 1 – 11 December this year another group of students and staff from schools in Victoria took part in the immersion program as an alternative to 'schoolies'. It would be fantastic if students from McCarthy could become involved in programs such as



these in future years. For further information on 'Alternative to Schoolies Immersion' in the Armidale Diocese contact Linda Hanrahan on 67713517 or missions@arm.catholic.edu.au.

On a personal note, I will be retiring at the end of this year and Cate Allen will be the sole REC next year. I feel very blessed and privileged to have worked in the role of REC at this school. What happens in families, in RE lessons and at McCarthy generally is that the seeds of faith are sewn- we have no way of knowing when they will come to full bloom but we do know that the potential is there for that to happen. I will continue to pray for all the McCarthy community.

Mrs Carol Wheaton and Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinators

PASTORAL CARE

Peer Mediation Training

Congratulations to the following Year 10 students who have completed their training in Peer Mediation: Sarah Adams, Jayden Booth, Kate Byron, Ellen Flanagan, Pippa Herden, Meg Hobson, Chloe Hope, Victoria Lake, Lauren MacRae, Hope Martin, Joshua Moore, Amanda Mulcahy, Megan Murphy, Isobel Paff, Emily Reid, Amy Robertson, Taylah Ryan, Emily Sanderson, Nicholas Sanderson, Samantha Smith, Harrison Tibbles, Connor Wieland.

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

Year 7 2014 Orientation Day

The Orientation Day saw 152 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 2013 Year 7 students' experiences and were entertained by students. Many thanks go to the staff leaders, Year 10 helpers, and Year 7 speakers and students performers.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Certificates of Achievement:

Year 7: Georgia Coker, Chloe Southern, Joshua Cornthwaite, Christopher Macpherson, Hollie Constable, Eliza Davidson, Benjamin Howard, Barry Lane, Kane Clinch, Adam Challens, Shaun Davies, Joshua Wadwell, Tiana-Leshai Manuel, Jessica Eggins, Charlotte Kingham, Scott Flanagan, Sarah Harnett, Maggie Fulwood, Ashleigh Aspinall, Olivia Jeffrey, Adam Larkham, Sophie Littlejohns, Isobelle Sullivan, Ella Wilkinson.

Year 8: Sharni Maher, Jack Murray, Mikaela Hellmann, Amy Sutherland, Brianna Hay, Tia O'Mally, Alexandra Watt, Josephine Hughes, Jasmine Tan, Anne Coates, Breanna Fox, Bella Burr-Clift

Year 9: Sara Awad, Aaron Ritchie, Hayley Littlejohns

Year 10: Pippa Herden, Madeline Davidson, Bradley Hobson, Meg Hobson, Chloe Hope, Amanda Mulcahy, Megan Murphy, Cara Paterson, Nicholas Sanderson

Year 11: Samantha Lill-Aitken, Nathan Daly, Claire Wilson.

Special congratulations to the first recipients of the McCarthy Award, presented when the student has received at least 10 Merit Certificates at least two of which are for service, and have shown themselves to be consistently good citizens of the school. These students will enjoy an outing with the principal.

Year 8: Isabelle Turner, Jake Vandeven, Daniel Canu, Emily Thompson, Melanie Gillick, Hannah Macpherson, Grace Allan, Anne Coates.

Year 9: Olivia Dillon, Gabrielle Vella

Year 10: Lauren MacRae, Vindhya Dayaratne, Taylor Ambrose, Mikayla Thompson, Bridget Galvin

Year 11: Priyanka Pinto, Jessica Whitbread, Dana Dehm, Jacinta Flynn, Denikah Ruttley

Year 12: Harry Vella, Luke Fulwood, Anna Camilleri, Jerome Studdy, James Dunn.

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 ourselves and try to do something for them (donate, visit, share); remember to help those people who are making Christmas a good one (offer to help prepare, cook, clean, wrap).

Congratulations

Connor Kuczer received an award for Recruit of the Year from the Australian Air Force Cadets, 310 Squadron. Connor was awarded this for showing dedication, excellent consistency and participation in regards to all aspects within 310 squadron throughout 2013.

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 good relationships and cared for others in our McCarthy community. May you and your families have a happy, holy and healthy Christmas.

'You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.'

Kahlil Gibran (poet, artist, writer)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Year 9 Tea Gardens Excursion

Year 9 students, along with nine staff members, spent four days at Tea Gardens on our annual excursion. A variety of outdoor education experiences took place including a giant flying fox, the 'leap of faith', a high ropes course and many more. The camp staff could not praise our students enough in relation to their maturity, manners and willingness to help each other. I was very proud to be associated with this fantastic group of students. Thank you to Mr McKenzie, Mrs Shoemark, Mr Feltrin, Ms O'Sullivan, Mr Northey, Mrs Godden, Mr Burke and Mrs Bradbery; their leadership and sense of enjoyment was appreciated by all. I wish all families a safe and prayerful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Mr Dan Mitchell – Year 9 Coordinator

HSIE

Year 9 Commerce

Congratulations to the group of Year 9 Commerce students who successfully completed their Assessment task "Running your own business", donating their profit of \$220 to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Their enthusiasm for the task and genuine desire to help others in the process was appreciated. Well done!

Mrs Louise Vella – HSIE Coordinator

MATHEMATICS

Many students have seen the rewards of their efforts this year in Mathematics. Students have participated in numerous competitions this year and we urge students to take advantage of the opportunities that they are presented with. We encourage all students to set academic goals for themselves in Mathematics in 2014.

I thank those people who have been tackling my newsletter puzzles.
We wish all families a safe, holy and happy Christmas.
Solution to last puzzle = the number 10 would be the missing number.

Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator

iXL AWARD

The final two recipients for the iXL Award for 2013 are Priyanka Pinto and Ellie Sampson. Both students composed a Drama Logbook which complemented their studies and the theatre performances they viewed during the year. Their comprehensive evaluations were beyond the expectations and parameters of the task and their Logbook entries were detailed and immaculately presented. Priyanka and Ellie are worthy recipients of this award for academic excellence.

CAREERS NEWS

I wish Year 12 students well as they await their HSC results and the release of ATARs next week. Students are urged to continue to check Careers Alert emails regarding universities, advice days, job vacancies, scholarships, interview advice etc.

TAFE

TAFE New England has details of 2014 courses available online and enrolment for Semester 1, 2014 has now started for school leavers. If you want to discuss your options please call the Customer Service Centre on 1800 448 176 or visit the website for details:

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

Advice for Year 12 Students and Parents

Because the school is not advised of a student's ATAR, it is not possible to offer help and advice if we are not contacted by the student or a parent.

There are many different options and pathways open to students with low or lower than anticipated ATARs depending on what a student would like to do and where they want to go to study. I have a folder full of these possibilities. I urge students to contact me at school on Thursday or Friday or attend the Breakfast Barbeque from 7.30am at school on Friday 20 December to discuss these. Students may also contact me once the holidays begin via email (careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au) as I will have the folder and several resources at home with me.

I wish everyone a safe and holy Christmas.

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

BAND

Mrs Lane and thirteen McCarthy students travelled to the Narrabri Band Link workshop for three days last week.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their musical skills, meet other musicians and be taught by specialist tutors on their instruments. There were 153 students from across the New England region in the band. There were twenty-two different tutors.

All students had a great time, with Aladdin and My Fair Lady being the favourite pieces. Thank you to Mr Ritchie for driving the bus.

The band have had a busy end of year, performing at the St Joseph's Fete and Filipino fundraiser. I would like to thank all members for their commitment and dedication during the year. I am looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2014. Hopefully we can encourage more students to learn an instrument, or join us if they already play.

Merry Christmas to all and have a musical holiday.....keep practising band students. We will resume band Week 2 of Term 1.

Mrs Lisa Lane – Band

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Every Thursday morning during 2013 from 9.30am to 11.30am up to twelve Year 9 students were bussed to the RDA grounds to volunteer in the Riding for the Disabled program. The program involved two students walking beside a horse led by an adult coach from RDA, whilst being ridden by people with a disability. Students at times held the horses to enable the clients to brush and pat the animal and were asked to set up and pack up equipment used throughout the morning.

The primary objective of the Riding for the Disabled program is to provide people who have a disability with the opportunity to ride and enjoy all activities associated with horse riding. Riding for people with a disability is both therapeutic and recreational and RDA is one of the few organisations who offer a multi-diagnostic service, catering for people with a range of disabilities.

The clients are aged from three years up to adults in their forties. They all have very different special needs with the majority of them having a horse ride, whilst some of the adults groom the horses.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the Year 9 students who volunteered and participated in this worthy community service. In 2013 we had fifty-two students who volunteered for the program alongside the many community members who volunteered their time.



Mrs Julie Kellahan

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 (tomorrow). We thank you for your support.

2014

Our first meeting for 2014 is 7.00pm on Tuesday 18 February in the Staff Room. Our first social evening will be a Wine and Cheese Night on Tuesday 25 February at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

We thank everyone for their support this year and wish all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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.

SPORT

2013 has been a highly successful year for sport at McCarthy. There have been five individual McCarthy students who have represented school sports at State level and sixteen individual students at CCC 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 various clubs at regional, state and national level in a host of sports. McCarthy is very proud of the achievements of our sporting teams and individuals.

Thanks go to the team of McCarthy teachers, staff and parents who volunteer countless hours in the administration and coaching of these students.

Congratulations to all involved on a very successful year in sport.

Tamworth Regional Sports Awards

Congratulations to Brodii Ingram who was named as Young Sports Star of the Year at the Tamworth Regional Sports Awards last week. Brodii excelled at two sports, being selected in the Australian U16 Oztag team as captain and the merit Australian U16 Touch Football development squad.

Isaac Farmilo (hockey) and Jayden Gimbergh (waterpolo and swimming) received Highly Commended in the Young Sports Star of the Year category. Mr Andrew Davy (hockey) also received the Highly Commended Award in Sports Star of the Year.

Christmas Mass Times

St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth

St Nicholas Church

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

St Mary's Church

Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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St Michael's Catholic Community Church

Kootingal

Tuesday 24	Christmas Eve Mass	6.30pm
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Dungowan

Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	8.30am
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Nundle

Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	10.00am
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St Patrick's Parish West Tamworth

Tuesday 24	Children's Mass	5.30pm
Tuesday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am

St Edward's Parish South Tamworth

Mary Help of Christians

Tuesday 24	Children's Mass	5.30pm
Tuesday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	10.00pm
Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am
No Evening Mass Christmas Day		

St Brigid's Parish Quirindi

Quirindi

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

Willow Tree

Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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St Michael's Parish Manilla

Manilla

Tuesday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
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Attunga

Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
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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**

