

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You have risen from the dead affirming for all that You are indeed the Son of God and Saviour of the world. In so doing, You have enabled us to walk in newness of life in the hope that we too may share in Your resurrection. Help us to be bold in extending Your offer of mercy to others and to walk in single minded devotion to You. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Reflection

With Easter just around the corner, I would like to offer these words of encouragement from Pope Francis.

Most of all, I would like the Good News to enter every heart, for it is there that

God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen, there is hope for you, you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil! Love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs!

We too, like the women who were Jesus' disciples, who went to the tomb and found it empty, may wonder what the Resurrection means. (cf Lk 24:4). What does it mean that Jesus is risen? It means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; it means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom. The love of God can do this! (Urbi et Orbi Message, Easter Sunday, 31 March 2013)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Easter

Easter is the central, critical season of the Church year. From Palm Sunday we journey through Holy Week with Christ, through his Passion and death, culminating in his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Without all of these events, there would be no Salvation and no Christianity. All members of the college community are encouraged to attend the ceremonies held in their parishes throughout Holy Week. Please contact your local parish for dates and times.

Parent Discussion

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended the discussion regarding the academic culture of the college on Tuesday evening. We discussed the current educational context internationally, nationally and locally, focusing on demographics and trends, before examining the state of the school's academic endeavours and improvement agenda. Consideration was made of the community profile, detailed baseline data and aspirational culture.

Pupil-Free Day

The first day of Term 2 (Monday 28 April) will be a pupil-free day. Staff will spend the day reflecting further on data and developing learning intervention strategies important to the 2014 improvement agenda. Students do not attend school on this day.

Round 1 Enrolments

Round 1 will commence this term for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 2015 from our Catholic feeder schools. **Applications will close on Wednesday 9 April** and interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2. Applications for students from non-feeder schools will close **Wednesday 25 June**, with interviews being held in Term 3.

On behalf of staff, I wish all families a happy, safe and holy Easter.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Liturgically, this has been a very busy term. All Year groups, 7 through to 12 have celebrated the Eucharist together in the PAC in addition to our whole school Eucharistic celebration of Ash Wednesday in the Tamworth parish churches. All students have been provided with the opportunity to go to Reconciliation. It is very encouraging to note that many students took advantage of this opportunity in their preparation for Easter. Again I would like to thank the priests for making this important aspect of Catholic life a reality for McCarthy Catholic College.

The students have continued to show their generosity and compassion for others in their donations to Caritas during this season of Lent.

Members of St Agnes Conference have been generous with donations of Easter eggs to raffle and gifts to take to the young patients in the Children's Ward at the hospital. I would like to thank them very much. Also this term a few members of the Conference attended an afternoon retreat which they found very prayerful and renewing. We hope to offer more of these experiences during the year ahead.

I would like to finish by encouraging you to make the effort to attend some of the very special and moving Easter celebrations in your parishes. Happy Easter.

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

We would like welcome to Hazel Barril (Year 12), Lachlan Cox (Year 11), Liam Dunn (Year 10) and their families to the McCarthy community.

Condolences

We extend our prayers and sympathy to James Harriott, Adam and Danielle Wallace and their families following the passing of their grandmothers.

Year 7 Parents

Year 7 parents attended a "Partnership in Learning" Information Evening on 26 March. Topics presented included the differences between Primary and Secondary school learning, the factors most effective in improving learning, assessment, communication, the Student Planner and the use of MOODLE. Thank you to those parents who braved the wet conditions.

Preparing for Winter

Please assist 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, with no skin visible. Ties **must** be worn. Please label all items, in particular jumpers, sports tops and track suit pants.

During the first two weeks of Term 2 students may wear either Summer or Winter uniform. All students are to be in complete Winter uniform by Monday 12 May.

Holidays

Organisation is a key to success. Please encourage your child during the break to:

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

Persistence is another key to success. Whilst it is essential that all students have a break during the vacation time, it is also ideal for junior students to spend some time revising and practising work that they found difficult. Senior students of course are expected to spend a significant part of their break on study. The study plans mentioned below can be used to ensure all needs are met.

Theme for the Week

Study Tips were given during Week 9. 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. There are tips and tools for study in the Student Planners:

Years 7-10: pages 109, 113 and 137

Years 11-12: pages 11, 21 and 45

Senior students have also been given a study plan template for both term and vacation weeks. These can be accessed on the MOODLE Pastoral Care Year 11 and Year 12 pages.

Bullying. No Way!

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence day was held on 21 March. Throughout the day staff and students celebrated taking a stand together against bullying. Students were asked to write down ideas on what can be done to stop bullying at McCarthy. During lunch they then worked together to make posters combining all their ideas and suggestions. We were lucky to have the team from "headspace" here to offer information and support to the students.

Mrs Tamara Shoemark



Year 8

Congratulations to the following Year 8 students on their success at the Tamworth Show:

Maggie Fulwood - 1st place for 'Patchwork Quilt' U15 years; 3 first places for 'Junior Needlework' 16 years and under; 1st place in 'Junior Handicrafts'.

Olivia Jeffrey - Junior Champion in 'Scrapbooking' 16 years; Highly Commended in 'Junior Handicrafts'.

Maddison Fisher - Junior Champion 'Photography' 16 years.

Lauren Barling - Highly Commended 'Junior Cooking' 16 years.



Epilepsy

What am I? I affect over 225,000 Australians and over 65 million people worldwide. I am sometimes mistaken for a mental illness, when I am not, I am a condition that affects the brain. In fact, I am the most common brain disorder around the world.

I am epilepsy.

Wednesday March 26 was 'Purple Day' for epilepsy. On the day staff members dressed in purple to support members of the McCarthy community who experience epilepsy and to raise awareness of the disorder.

Mr Andrew Davy – Year 8 Coordinator

What makes a good friend?

Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Project



RUBBERMAN BEGINS TO QUESTION HIS FRIENDSHIPS



Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Association Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 8 April (last week of Term 1) 7.00pm for 7.15pm start in the Staff Room.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

This fortnight I would like to discuss the fifth suggestion for doing well at McCarthy.

1. Ask for help
2. Ask for help
3. Positive attitude
4. Use class time

5. Student Planner: Students need to get in the habit of always writing in their homework immediately and checking it every afternoon when they get home. They should stay up-to-date with their homework and complete all work.

In our busy lives, with so many things to remember, we can sometimes forget things. Many families have a calendar or planner on the refrigerator to help keep track of what is happening.

Successful people write things down. We want your children to be successful which is why McCarthy provides a Planner to each student. Not only does this Student Planner contain very useful information, it provides students with the opportunity to record the work they need to complete, whether it is homework or assessment tasks.

The Student Planner also serves as a communication tool for you and your child's teacher.

Students are expected to have their Planner in every class, not sitting in their bag or locker, or left at home. Some students may have received a "Letter of Concern" indicating that they have not followed the school expectation regarding Student Planners.

Of course writing down homework is the first step. When they get home, their Planner should be looked at so that they are reminded what they need to do. Then as Nike so clearly state: JUST DO IT!

Please ask your child about their Planner and look to see if they are utilising it. There may even be a message in there for you. There are instructions on page 6 showing how to use it effectively if you find that your child is having trouble.

Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Last week twenty-three girls from Year 11 and Year 12 attended the Health Careers Forum held at the new University of Newcastle’s Tamworth Education Centre building in Johnston Street. On the day almost three hundred students from in and around Tamworth heard talks on various medical and health careers and then had the chance to attend various “hands-on” workshops. There was much positive feedback from those who attended about the new facilities and the potential careers they may now consider.



On Wednesday 19 March, over thirty students from Years 9-12 attended a lunch time talk by members of the Defence Forces. They addressed many aspects including how to join up, career options and training across the Army, Navy and Airforce, as well as the Army Reserves.

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

MATHEMATICS

As we near the end of term it is timely to ensure students have all the correct equipment for Mathematics - grid book, text book, pens, pencils, ruler and calculator. Students should also be accessing mathspace. Final Semester 1 assessments will be held next term. Therefore organisation of work and preparation of summaries would be beneficial for students in preparation for these tasks.

$$\square - \square = \square$$

$$\square \times \square = \square$$

$$\square \div \square = \square$$

$$\square \parallel \square = \square$$

$$\square + \square = \square$$

Solution to last newsletter:

The original price of the shoes was \$80.

New problem:

Suppose you have 9 cards with the digits from 1 to 9, one card for each digit. Complete the quiz at right by using all of the cards.

Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator

DEBATING

This year was the first year of the inaugural Federation Cup, an inter-school debating challenge for non-government schools. Last week was the culmination of the competition and McCarthy had Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 teams debating for first place and Year 11/12 locked in battle for third place. The combined results of these three teams were added together in order to obtain the best debating school. Our Year 9/10 team proved formidable on the night trumping Calrossy with an excellent display of debating skills. Our Year 7/8 team were, unfortunately, just nudged out, but held onto a very respectable second place and our Year 11/12 team were able to secure third. These scores added together on the night proved enough for McCarthy to be awarded the Federation Cup and bragging rights of 'best debating school', at least for a year. Thank you to the parents and friends who supported throughout the competition and thank you and congratulations to the teachers Mrs Jennifer Madden and Mrs Tamara Shoemark who gave up their time to help the students.

Mr Andrew Burke

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the students from Years 8, 9 and 10 who took part in the Science and Engineering Challenge held at TRECC on Wednesday 19 March (Years 9/10 team) and Thursday 20 March (Year 8 team). It has been encouraging to see an increased demand from students this year to be part of the teams. Names were drawn from a hat in order to select the thirty-two students needed to fill each team. This year the Year 9 and 10 team did our school proud by placing first in the 'Flight' and 'Mission to Mars' challenges which helped earn McCarthy an overall 3rd placing for the day's competition. (as the students know, with a little controversy!) Our Year 8 team gained valuable skills and knowledge which will aid in future competitions and gave them an opportunity to put their Science into action. A special thank must also go to Mrs Lees and Mrs Godden with the Year 9/10 team and, Miss Mumford and Miss Gardner with the Year 8 team. By all accounts, all students had a very enjoyable experience. They worked together extremely well in teams to solve the challenges put before them and were exceptional ambassadors for our school. Well done to all.

DRAMA



Inter-school Theatresports Competition and A Midsummers Night's Dream Performance

On Tuesday 25 March, Preliminary and Year 10 students participated in the regional **Inter-school Theatresports Competition**. The junior improvisers performed exceptionally well - winning two of the three initial rounds and obtaining a near perfect score in the second round. Unfortunately the team was unlucky in the final round missing out on a win by two points.

The senior improvisers were also very professional in their division. It was a tough challenge for this group performing against many HSC students. Their efforts saw some great moments in their scenes.

The most impressive element from this experience was the respect and maturity of both groups. Their conduct during the excursion was impeccable. It was also

a rare opportunity for students to develop positive relationships between other years and schools. Well done to all participants.

On Thursday, as part of our Shakespeare study, students attended a performance of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. It was a double delight as students were able to watch fellow McCarthy students Ellie Sampson (Year 12) and Jaydon Merrick (Year 9) in key roles. Congratulations to both the actors, for their incredible performances, and the Year 10 audience, for their maturity during the excursion to the theatre.

Ms Felicity Sawtell – Drama teacher

ART

The Art Department would like donations of bendable wire coat hangers and newspapers please. They can be left at the back door of D block near student pick up or at the school office.

SHOW TEAM

Manilla Show

Manilla Show was our first show this year and we took our Stud Simmentals and Red Angus cow with her new calf. Our Simmental bull “McCarthy Heartbreaker” won his class, with “McCarthy Hellraiser” placing third. They went on to then be placed third in the “pair of bulls” interbreed class. Michael Davis and Madeleine Gale showed “Empress” and her calf “McCarthy Kaiser” and won Champion Senior Cow. Olivia Gale led “Perfect Timing” who was awarded Champion Simmental Female. Our steer “Pickles”, led by Claudia Turner, was unfortunately out-gunned on the day. Sarah Atkins got a taste of the show ring taking “Kaiser” out in the Calf Class and Sabrina assisted Maddy by leading the calf out during her parader’s class. Both Paul Murphy and Michael Davis were selected for the finals of the Parader’s competition using borrowed cattle. The team competed in the Junior Judging as the last event of the day and Sarah Atkins showed a natural talent for this area, placing 3rd. Alex Watt placed 1st and Paul Murphy 2nd in the Senior Section with very high quality speeches. A huge thank you to Mr Noel Murphy for driving the bus and to Rob Maxwell for everything he does and to Miss Mumford, who came along and helped out at the show.



(Left) Junior Judging Ribbon Winners: Alex Watt (1st), Paul Murphy (2nd), Sarah Atkins (3rd)

(Right) Manilla Team Photo: Paul Murphy, Alex Watt, Miss Sjollema, Sabrina Ninness-Rooke, Olivia Gale (back) Sarah Atkins, Michael Davis, Maddy Gale, Ben Fox (front). Absent – Claudia Turner and Sophie Smith.



Junior Judging Zone Finals

On Sunday 16 March, several Show Team members travelled to Walcha to compete in the Zone Finals for Junior Judging and a place in the State Finals held at the Royal Easter Show. Tyler Smith (11), Paul Murphy (11) and Alex Watt (9) all competed against the toughest competitors in the zone vying for one of two places in the finals. Each student was asked to justify their placings of a class of heifers. While all three students spoke incredibly well, there could only be one winner, Alex Watt. Alex will now compete at the State Finals held later this term and will be the youngest competitor in this event.

Miss Leanne Sjollema



SPORT

Water Polo

The U16's McCarthy boys' water polo team qualified for the Grand Final of the school based competition. The boys had only been defeated once in the season by Tamworth High and played that team in the Grand Final. The boys prepared well and were able to dominate the game from the start. An excellent offensive display from Jarrod Chester enabled McCarthy to gain an unassailable lead. The boys out played Tamworth High 10-5. Many thanks to the families for their support and a special mention to Mr Feltrin who was able to fill in at last minute as coach for the boys on the night in my absence. Congratulations to: Will Clinch, Kane Clinch, Jarrod Chester, Jayden Gimbergh, Sam Collett, Ethan George, Jake Mitchell and Morgan Pennefather.

Mr Andrew Burke

Hockey

Jack Cruickshank (10) travelled to Newcastle for the NSWCCC Boys' Open Hockey selections on 24 March. Jack was selected in the team that will play at the NSW All Schools Hockey Boys Tri-Championships to be held at Homebush on 16 June 2014.

Cricket

The MCC 7/8 Blue team defeated Calrossy in the final last Friday to win the competition. The team only lost one game during the season. Congratulations to: Jye Paterson, Jack Murrie, Jack Croake, Lachlan Glasson, Jarrod Beaufoy, Egan Dunn, Tristan Hunter, Alex Cook, Joshua Wadwell, Barry Lane, Scott Flanagan, Adam Challens, Connor McRae and Zac Clark.

Well done to our other teams Year 7/8 Gold, Year 9/10 and the two Year 7 teams.

The Ron George Shield Cricket Competition commenced in 1978 and this is the first time McCarthy Opens' Cricket team will be engraved on the trophy.

McCarthy played Calrossy in the final on Monday afternoon, batting first and scoring 7/147. Top scorers were Keytan Hislop (48), Matt Dunn (32) and Beau Alderton (19). Calrossy were bowled out for 121. Wicket takers for McCarthy included Rhett Graham (2/7), Matt Hughes (2/11) and Jye Paterson (2/22).

Team: Rhys Chillingworth, Antonio Comi, Keytan Hislop, Tom Finn, Cameron Clout, Beau Alderton, Josh Miles, Matt Dunn, Matt Hughes, Jye Paterson, Rhett Graham, Peter Virgen (coach).



Congratulations to Jye Paterson in Year 9 who was named Tamworth Junior Cricketer of the Year.

A big thank you to Natalie Paterson and Maureen Alderton for running the Cricket Club as well as John Murrie, Murray Lang, Peter Graham, Andrew Farmilo and Dale Rogers for coaching and assisting our teams during the season. Thank you to the parents that umpired, scored and supported the students. Thank you to Peter Virgen, Jeff Cook and Chris Paterson for their assistance at training, the running of the Ron George competition and MCC Cricket in general.

Rugby League

Five McCarthy students participated in the Diocesan Under 15 Rugby League Trials on Friday 21 March at Jack Woolaston Oval. Congratulations to Jye Paterson, Connor Robinson and Ryan Baker, who have all been selected in the team to trial in the Northern Country selections in April.

Soccer/Football

Madison Sharp travelled to Proctor Park, Bathurst on 20 March to attend the Western NSWCCC Football selection trials. Madison was selected to play in the possible/probables game, however she did not make the final team.

NSWCCC Tennis

On 24 and 25 March Darcie Martin travelled to Bathurst to compete in the NSW All Schools' Tennis Selection Trials. Unfortunately, Darcie missed selection at the high standard trials.

Water Polo

The following girls, Gabrielle Joice (8), Billie Mitchell (7), Dakota Skewes (8) and Maggie Irwin (8) will represent Tamworth in both the U/14 State Championships in Wagga Wagga (April 4 - 6) and National Championships in Melbourne (April 9 - 12). The assistant coach is Alice Lyden (11) and the team manager is Jane O'Connor (mother of Alice). The girls have been training as a team since September and train up to 5 times a week. Good luck girls.

