Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Hail Mary
Hail, Mary full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Reflection
A well-known tradition of the Catholic Church, which began in the 18th century,
is the dedication of the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary and so it
known as the Month of Mary. It follows the Church’s great celebration of Easter,
and so during May we can reflect on the role Mary played in the life of Jesus
and her participation in the Resurrection and Pentecost. Praying the Rosary
during May is one of the best ways to ponder the salvific events of Christ’s life
and Mary’s close association with them.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS
Academic Culture
Parents who attended the discussion on academic culture at McCarthy would be aware of the agenda to build a culture at the school that encourages high expectations, aspiration and motivation. The results of the PAT tests conducted in early Term 1 indicate a notable improvement in student performance in Maths and Comprehension across all years assessed. The annual NAPLAN papers will be completed by students in Year 7 and 9 in Week 3. Students are encouraged to approach these assessments with rigour to ensure the results reflect their actual ability in literacy and numeracy.

Pupil-free day
Staff spent the Term 2 pupil-free day working towards the next stage of the improvement agenda. The central theme of the day was standards. Teaching staff members were introduced to the new National Professional Standards for Teachers and then moved on to a detailed examination of the common standards for student assessment and reporting and the practical application of the standards in general class activity. The day ended with the first of a series of sessions on the Tactical Teaching (Listening) module to be implemented as part of the general approach to improving literacy across the school.

Term 2 – NAPLAN, Exams and Reporting
This term is a very important one in the annual process of assessing and reporting on student achievement. Examinations will be held for all students in Years 7 to 11 and these should take priority over all other activities. It is important that parents attend the parent/teacher interviews as part of the reporting process. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents to maximise feedback.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability
As outlined in the letter sent home this week from Mr John Mula, McCarthy will be complying with the Commonwealth Government directive to collect data on students with a disability in accordance with the Disability Standards. This will take place between Weeks 6 – 9 this term. Parents not wanting their child recorded for the data collection must contact the school prior to the data collection date.

ANZAC Day
Approximately two hundred students represented McCarthy at ANZAC Day dawn services and marches around the region. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank all of these students who participated, especially those who attended in uniform and represented the school so capably.

Europe Excursion
We welcome home the staff and students who participated in the three week tour of Europe. A report on the excursion can be found later in this newsletter.

Ex-student News
Laura Heuston, class of 2013, has been named National Flugelhorn Champion, having won the title at the recent National Band Championships held in Brisbane. Laura is currently studying at the University of Sydney.
The Royal Commission, Education Funding and ADIG

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has recently focused on various church financial matters. This has been followed in the media with reports on education funding and catholic development funds. An article in The Australian newspaper on 2 April 2014 specifically referenced our own development fund: The Armidale Diocesan Investment Group (ADIG). This followed an earlier article on 1 April 2014 which linked payment of abuse claims to government funding for schools. Bishop Kennedy has issued the following statement explaining the facts surrounding these matters in the Diocese of Armidale.


Round 1 Enrolment Interviews

Round 1 Enrolment Interviews will be conducted during Weeks 3, 5 and 6 this term. Applications for students from non-feeder schools will close Wednesday 25 June, with interviews being held in Term 3.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We began Term 2 with a Mass for Year 12 students which was celebrated by Father Suresh from St Nicholas’ Parish; and as the term progresses each individual year group will have this wonderful opportunity to attend Eucharist with their peers.

The Friday lunchtime prayer group continues with a small group of students and staff and to mark the Month of Mary we will pray the Rosary. All are most welcome to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of the St Agnes Conference members for their donations of Easter Eggs for the raffles and distribution among patients in the Children’s Ward at the hospital at the end of last term. The money raised went towards our Caritas collection, which totalled $6,400. At a later date the school will present a cheque for this amount to Mr Brian Sullivan, representative for Caritas.

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

We would like to welcome Eden Pakes and Neil Nunag (Year 7), Chloe Wolds and Shaun Nepomuceno (Year 8), Reyster Blanza (Year 9), Cheska Nepomuceno (Year 11) and their families to the McCarthy community.

Congratulations

We congratulate the family of Kayla and Emily Torode on the safe arrival of their baby brother, Kobe Buster.

Condolences

Our prayers and sympathy go to Emily Saul and her family following the death of her grandfather.

Calendars

All students will receive a Term 2 Calendar this week. It should be used at home in conjunction with their school planner in order to improve time management.

Vaccinations

The second round of vaccinations for Year 9 boys and Year 7 will be held on June 16. Any student who wishes to be vaccinated but has not completed forms should do so. Forms are available from the Office.

Theme for the Week

In the last week of Term 1, Mentor Groups discussed forgiveness - who has forgiven them, who they should forgive, how to forgive and why we should forgive. This is an interesting family dinner table topic, particularly in the light of Easter. "One reason to forgive is for our own sake, for our own health. Because beyond that point needed for healing, if we hold onto our anger, we stop growing and our souls begin to shrivel." (M. Peck – psychiatrist and writer)

Learning was the first Theme for Term 2. Students were reminded that this is an active process that is their responsibility. They were encouraged to think about different ways of learning and were issued with a sheet with tips for learning (green) and another sheet on different methods/intelligences for learning (blue). They also completed a quiz to identify styles of learning which may be more effective and are encouraged to apply their results to their study methods.

What we have to learn to do we learn by doing." (Aristotle 384-322BC Greek philosopher)

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Association Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 20 May, 7.00pm for 7.15pm start in the Staff Room.

New President

We welcome Mel Nicholson, our new President.

Social Evening

Our social evening for this term is Tenpin Bowling on Friday 13 June. More information will follow in the form of a flyer. Raffle tickets for the Hamilton Island holiday will be on sale after this date.
TEACHING AND LEARNING

During last term, I focused on ‘unfair advantage’ with our senior students. ‘Unfair advantage’ is a term that BOSTES (the new acronym for the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards), uses to ensure all students who sit for the Higher School Certificate in New South Wales have the same opportunity to do well. At McCarthy, we begin this process from Year 7, continuing through to Year 12, and it is incorporated into our school Assessment Policy. It involves handing in assessment tasks by 9.00am on the due date. If your child is unwell on the day an assessment is due and set to be completed, then a telephone call from you is expected, followed with a Doctor’s Certificate being presented and a form completed on their return. It also means that students cannot arrive just prior to an assessment task and sit for the task as we cannot guarantee that extra study has not occurred. Staying home the day before an assessment is due could also mean a deduction in marks for the task if no evidence of illness is provided.

Term 2 is a very busy time in regards to mid-year examinations and reporting for all years. The importance of all examinations has to be realised. This year our Executive has stressed that students must sit for all examinations at the published designated time. If your child is unwell when an exam is timetabled, then a medical certificate should be supplied. If your child does not have supporting evidence then it is likely that your child will receive a zero mark for that exam. Family vacations, sporting tryouts, music festivals etc should be discouraged during the Examination period. This process supports the BOSTES policy of unfair advantage.

Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Last week, thirty-five Year 12 students attended the University of New England Open Day in Armidale. They ate breakfast at St Albert’s College and toured various residential colleges, went on tours of the universities, attended talks and had the opportunity to ask questions about courses and careers. Also coming up this term is the Tamworth Careers Expo which will be held on Wednesday 21 May. All students in Years 10, 11 and 12 will be attending at a cost of $2.00 to cover the bus. This will be a great opportunity for students to see the vast range of careers and range of course providers including TAFE, colleges and universities.

Trades in the Defence Forces

An ADF Trades Information Session will be held at Tamworth Army Reserve Depot (Beersheba Barracks, Marius St, Tamworth, opposite the Best Western Sanctuary Inn) on Tuesday 20 May at 7.00pm. The session will cover the 26 technical trades available in the ADF, as well as the policies and application process.

SHOW TEAM

Tamworth Show

Approximately forty students represented McCarthy at the 2014 Tamworth Show. New team members were able to get hands on experience in the sheds and all students were able to get involved in the Junior Beef Cattle Judging. Students also tried Merino judging and fleece judging as well as Meat Sheep judging and handling.

Our steers ‘Ace’ and ‘Pickles’ were exhibited by Alex Watt and Claudia Turner, and despite Ace getting the judge’s attention, neither steer placed in the strong classes. In the Open Paraders, Alex Watt made it through to the finals placing second. Zeb Douglas, Paul Murphy, Rebecca Holm, Sam Collett, Darcy Doyle and Claudia Turner also competed in this event. The F002 state qualifier was held on Friday and Claudia turner was chosen to compete in the State Final. On stud day, our Simmental bull “McCarthy Heartbreaker” won his class and went on to become Champion Simmental Bull. Paul Murphy, led “Hellraiser” in the same class, and received a 3rd place and our Simmental heifer “McCarthy Perfect Timing”, led by Michael Davis, was awarded first in her class. Our Red Angus cow “Triple M Empress”, led by Claudia Turner, was awarded Reserve Champion Senior Female.

Miss Leanne Sjollema

LANGUAGES

How well do you listen? In Languages for the next few weeks, our focus is on listening skills as students prepare to sit their first Listening Assessment Task for the year. Languages borrow many words from each other. Did you know that sarong and orangutan...
are both Indonesian words? Or that RSVP comes from the French _respondez si vous plait_? Listen carefully over the next few weeks and see how many words are borrowed from other languages. You might be surprised!

**Miss Kathryn O’Sullivan**

## EUROPE EXCURSION

April 28 saw the safe return of a weary but enriched group, following the 2014 Europe excursion. The group visited many beautiful and exciting places in Italy, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and France. It is not possible to pick a single highlight - the experiences were so different and varied, including the Colosseum, Pantheon and Sistine Chapel in Rome, the abbey at Monte Cassino, sea views at Sorrento, ruins at Pompeii and Herculaneum, St Francis’ Basilica at Assisi, San Gimignano, Michelangelo's *David* in Florence and gondola rides in Venice for our Italian experience. On a more sombre note students were moved by the Concentration Camp at Dachau and by the many memorials to Australian soldiers throughout Belgium and France. At Villers Bretonneux, students were interviewed and filmed by Channel 7’s UK/European Correspondent, Hugh Whitfeld, as they inspected the war memorials. The tour ended with four memorable days in Paris - with a cruise on the Seine, an evening excursion to the Eiffel Tower, the Palace at Versailles, the Louvre, Musee d’Orsay and snails and frog's legs at 'Roger the Frog'. Thank you to all travellers for sharing a wonderful trip.

**SPORT**

### Northern Regional NSWCCC Basketball

Coffs Harbour hosted the 2014 Northern Regional NSWCCC Basketball Carnival at Sportz Central on 1 and 2 May. Forty five teams converged on the stadium and John Paul College in search of the coveted state finals positions earned by placing 1st or 2nd in each of the 4 junior divisions.

McCarthy did not disappoint winning three divisions - 7/8 Boys’, 7/8 Girls’, and 9/10 Boys’. These teams will travel to Penrith in August for the State Finals. The 9/10 Girls’ unfortunately did not get through but played well, drawing their final game of the tournament 45-all against McAuley Catholic College who came third in their pool.

All students should be congratulated for the manner in which they conducted themselves over the two days, both on and off the court.

A big thank you should be given to the coaches and managers of the teams: Paul Hobson, Matt Hobson, Luke Krug, Kate Chillingworth and Neil Wood. The time and effort they put into preparing their players for the carnival is appreciated, and McCarthy would not have had the success they did without their passion and commitment. Thank you also to Miss Fran Mumford for all her help on the trip, and to Pat Hobson for her continued support of Basketball at McCarthy.

A special thanks to the parents who came and supported the teams and helped out with bench duties.


7/8 Boys: Sam Ellicott, Izaack Fuller, Matthew Gambrell, Cooper Kelly, Caleb Lavu Lavu, Nathaniel McGrath, Connor McRae, Riley Murphy, Matthew O’Toole and Tom Rindo.


9/10 Boys: James Berthold, Max Chillingworth, Hayden Davy, Ben Foster, Tom Kelly, Connor Murphy, Brody Peak, Jake Pendergast, Dominic Sills and Ricky Ward.

*Mr Matt Feltrin*

### Swimming

After qualifying at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Moree, Jayden Gimbergh, Sam Ellicott, Tarryn Rizzi, Jake Mitchell, Molly Johns, Josie Chick, Billie Mitchell, Melanie Young, Edward George, Eleanor George, Morgan Pennefather, Amelia Summers, Zac Rizzi and Ben Fox travelled to the Sydney International Aquatic Centre at Homebush on Tuesday 29 April. The team performed well with Tarryn Rizzi, Molly Johns, Amelia Summers, Eleanor George, Sam Ellicott and Billie Mitchell having top ten finishes. Jayden Gimbergh won gold in the 50m Backstroke. He travelled to Homebush again this week to compete in the NSW All Schools’ Swimming Championships.

### Triathlon

After her success in the NSW All Schools’ Individual Triathlon, Sophie Heeney was selected in the NSW All Schools’ Team to travel to Bendigo on 8 – 11 April. Sophie finished fifth overall and third in the 17 years. She participated in the overall team’s event, each team consisting of Junior, Intermediate and Senior. She completed the bike leg and her team finished second.

### Hockey

On 2 – 4 May Jack Cruickshank travelled to Newcastle to participate in the NSW U/16 All Schools Boys Hockey selections. Jack was selected and will participate in the NSW All Schools’ Hockey Tri-Series Championships to be held at Homebush on 16 June.

### Rugby Union

Lachlan Etheridge, Bradley Thrift, Ryan Prentice and Ryan Witherdin were selected in the 2014 NSW Country Schools Rugby Union Development squad and toured the United States during the Easter School holidays.
Bill Turner Trophy - Soccer
On 9 April McCarthy played Tamworth High in the Bill Turner Trophy competition (Under 15 girls). Unfortunately the girls were beaten in extra time 3 goals to 2. The team was: Grace Allan, Heidi Backhouse, Bella Burr-Clift, Montana Cooper-Mason, Alicia Guest, Ella Heeney, Rebecca Holm, Jessie O'Mally, Maddison Potts, Amy Riley, Emerson Ring, Madison Sharp and Jasmine Shumack.

Rugby League
On 9 April, Connor Robinson, Jye Paterson and Ryan Baker were selected to travel to Smithtown in the Northern NSW CCC Rugby League Selection trials. Although the boys were not selected the day was beneficial.

Netball
Tamworth Netball Association are hoping to introduce an umpire mentoring program aimed at secondary age. The program will be held each Saturday and will consist of theory between 11.45am to 12.45pm and practical – 1.00pm games with a mentor.
Any girl who would like to learn umpiring and be part of this program please see Mrs Forrest at the office.
Tamworth Netball Association are holding a Level 1 Umpires Course on Friday 16 May from 6.00pm to 10.00pm at Healthy Inspirations. This course is run by Netball NSW and will cost $35.00 per person. A manual and certificate is included and supper will be provided. This course is recommended for all coaches, managers, players and of course those who would like to umpire. It is a great way to learn the rules of netball. Enquiries to Lyn O'Brien tamworthnetball@bigpond.com

Mark Smith from Catholic Mission is visiting the Armidale Diocese this week to promote overseas immersion experiences. These are inspirational opportunities for schools, alternate schoolies or adult groups to visit missionary communities across the world and experience life and faith in a new way. Locations include India, Zambia, Ethiopia, Timor-Leste, Fiji-Kiribati and Cambodia.

In particular Mark has been speaking with students about alternate schoolies Immersion opportunities.

For more information please contact Mark at msmith@catholicmission.org.au or (02) 9919 7800.

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Getting Involved Globally
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Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May, Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it.

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests. Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids.

The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **Take your cues from your child:**
   If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. **Focus on doing their best and trying hard:**
   Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results.

The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:**
   If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:**
   Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain their perspective:**
   One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.