

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Dear Father,

This week we come to you seeking your Son. We know that even the desire to seek Him is a gift itself and it is this gift that we need. In scripture your Son tells us that you long to give good gifts to your children and that your will is that in knowing your Son we would come to know you ever more deeply.

Give us a hunger for silence and prayer. Draw us to moments of deliberate stillness with you and a hunger to find you in scripture and sacrament.

Give us the desire to journey with our children and students beyond knowledge and into communion with you.

We make this prayer through your Son Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Reflection

“... The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Spirit.” (John Paul II - *Catechesi Tradendae [Catechesis in Our Time]*). Underlying this short quote from *Catechesi Tradendae* is the concept of Christocentricity or the centrality of Christ; it reminds us as Christians of the importance of the person of Jesus Christ, the son of God in everything we do. It also reminds us of the importance, not only of Religious Education at McCarthy, but how all subjects and aspects of school life are opportunities for us to make Jesus Christ known to our students.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Improvement Agenda

The 2013 NAPLAN data indicate that the rate of student academic growth in literacy at McCarthy is greater than for any other school in Tamworth. This affirms the excellent work being done across the school to target literacy development. Systemic interventions appear to have made a significant impact on student results. This has been reflected in the PAT and NAPLAN data released this year. Teachers have been building a stock of shared resources for use in all subject areas. Please note that excellent supporting resources are available on MOODLE.

Student Absence and Academic Impact

Please refer to the editorial from last Sunday's Sun Herald newspaper about the impact of absence from school, by clicking on this link:

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/smh-editorial/there-is-no-substitute-for-time-in-the-classroom-20140801-zzckj.html>

Enrolment Interviews

The second round of interviews for placements into Year 7 2015 concludes next week. Well over two hundred applications were received so, unfortunately, many students will miss a place. The panel will meet to determine offers of placements at the end of the interview period.

School Perception Survey

The annual school perception survey is currently open. All parents who have provided up-to-date emails will have access to the survey until Friday 15 August. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback that will assist future planning for the school.

Catholic Schools Celebrate

I invite all parents to attend *Catholic Schools Celebrate 2014 – The Journey Continues* on Thursday 18 September. Tickets are on sale at Tamworth Tourism.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

NAPLAN Results

The 2014 NAPLAN reports will be delivered to schools in the first week of September. In order to assist parents interpret the student reports, ACARA has published a brochure and video which can be accessed through the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards at information@info.bos.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you to those parents who have returned the Mathspace note. Mrs Briony Martin and I have been visiting the Year 8 classes and have begun to collate email addresses. Please contact me at school if you have any concerns.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

Diary Dates

7 Aug:	Australian Mathematics Competition
12 Aug:	ICAS Mathematics Competition
13 Aug:	Netball Meeting 5.30pm
13 Aug:	HSC Drama Performance Evening
15 Aug:	Whole School Mass 11.30am
15 Aug:	Diocesan Athletics Carnival – Armidale
19 Aug:	Board & Association Meetings
19 Aug:	AgQuip
20 Aug:	Year 11 Property Planning
20 Aug:	HSC Music Performance Evening
25 Aug:	HSC Industrial Technology prac marking
26 Aug:	HSC Drama prac marking
28 Aug:	Young Drivers Expo (Year 11)
5 Sept:	Walkathon & McCarthy's Got Talent
9 Sept:	Reconciliation
9 Sept:	Year 12 Twilight Retreat
10 Sept:	Motivational Media
10 Sept:	Year 12 Graduation Mass
11 Sept:	Year 11 Exams commence

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Vinnies Camp

The recent St Vinnies Camp at Lake Keepit proved to be a very enjoyable and insightful experience for myself and the students who attended. We came away very inspired about the future for St Agnes Conference here at McCarthy. We plan to introduce some new positions and responsibilities into the executive structure when the current Year 12 leadership term ends in Term 4.

Masses

Year Masses continue each week – in light of the above extract from *Catechesi Tradendae* the importance of these occasions as opportunities for our students to get to know Jesus cannot be overestimated. We are very grateful to the priests for making this possible. On Friday 15 August we will celebrate our whole school Mass for this term on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the four Tamworth churches at 11.30am. All parents, grandparents and care-givers are most welcome to attend.

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

We welcome Toby Whale (Year 8) and his family into the McCarthy community.

Condolences

Our prayers and sympathy go to Mr Steve Donnelly and his family after the death of his father, and also to Blake Sissons and his family following the death of his grandmother.

Head Lice

There have been a number of head lice infections reported in different years across the school. Please check your child's hair for nits/lice. If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment. Methods recommended for detection and treatment are published by NSW Health. (<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp>) Students should not share hats and any long hair should be tied back.

Theme for the Week

One of the most important organisational skills for secondary students (and adults) is **Time Management**. It can enhance academic achievement, increase opportunities for leisure and family activities and assist students to have more balanced, successful and enjoyable lives. During Week 3, students were asked to identify and control wasted 'nothing' time, prioritise tasks and to use their Planners, term calendars and study plans.

This week we talked about the basic areas of healthy living: exercise, food, sleep, dos and don'ts and maintaining a balance in life. Any improvements can benefit not only general health, but also learning capacity and resilience.

'The main thing is to make the main thing the main thing.' Steven Covey

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Thank you to those parents who took the time to provide feedback regarding the online Booking System for Parent/Teacher Interviews (SOBS). This system appears to have streamlined the interview process, with many parents feeling satisfied, informed and more at ease with the evening.

The Trial HSC examinations have continued smoothly, with Year 12 students managing the different demands that focused study brings. Many of our students are also preparing, polishing and completing the practical or performance component of their courses.

- Industrial Technology Major Projects are due by 3.00pm on Thursday 7 August.
- French Continuers Oral Examination in Armidale on 9 August.
- Textiles and Design's Major Textiles Projects are due Monday of Week 5.
- English Extension 2 Major Works are due on Friday 15 August.
- Drama projects are submitted Week 6 with the performances being marked over the two week period, into Week 7.
- Visual Arts Bodies of Work are due in Week 7.
- French Beginners Oral Examination in Armidale on 30 August.
- Music submitted works are due Week 8, with their Performance Examinations occurring into Week 9.

This means that many of our senior students may feel pressured over this time, as they will be receiving their exam results, rushing to complete courses and finalising the more formal aspects of school life.

Terms 3 and 4 are the business end of schooling and it is important for the students to remember the tips on which I have been focusing all year.

- Asking for help
- Positive attitude
- Using class time
- Using the student planner
- Starting early
- Always doing your best

NAPLAN Trials

Tuesday 5 August saw a selection of students from Years 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN Trials. McCarthy was one of a number of schools selected by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) to represent a sample group of students from all states and territories and school sectors. Trials are administered to determine whether or not trial questions are of sufficient quality to be included in future NAPLAN tests. These trials are not used to report student or class results and the individual's performance is strictly confidential. I thank those students who participated in these tests. Hopefully, these students will find the experience useful.

Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

HSIE

The Australian History Competition

Congratulations to the following Year 10 students who achieved excellent results in the Australian History Competition held earlier this year.

High Distinction: Hayley Littlejohns and David Northey

Distinction: Isiah Darcy and Shannon Smyth

Credit: Kate Cruickshank, Olivia Dillon, Matthew Letton, James Lu, Douglas Pianta, Nicholas Ryan, Patrick Sparke and Gabrielle Vella

Merit: Sara Awad, Bronte Ellicott, Sabrina Ninness-Rooke and Caitlyn Todd.

Given that this competition attracted over 20,000 entries the HSIE Department are very proud of their efforts.

Mrs Louise Vella – HSIE Coordinator

LANGUAGES

Bonjour! Selamat pagi! Jambo! The best way you can assist your child acquire a new language is to have them teach you. With speaking assessments coming up this term for Year 8 students, it would be *asyik* to spend some time around the dinner table speaking French or Indonesian. *Selamat makan! Bon appetit!*

Miss Kathryn O'Sullivan

PARENT INFORMATION

Association Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 19 August 7.00pm for 7.15pm start in the Staff Room.

Trivia Night Donations

The Trivia Night committee would like to ask for families who own businesses to donate prizes for the Trivia Night to be held on 14 November. This would be a great opportunity for them to promote their business. Donations can be left at the school office.

Hamilton Island Holiday Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for The McCarthy Association's Hamilton Island Holiday Raffle. The prize includes four nights at the Reef View Hotel, Hamilton Island for 2 adults and 2 children (0-12 years) in a Garden View Room, breakfast, return airport/marina transfers, use of equipment and \$1,000 Virgin Australia voucher. It will be drawn at the Trivia Night on 14 November. The prize Raffle books of 10 x \$2.00 tickets can be collected from the office.

CAREERS NEWS

On Tuesday August 12 after the Trial HSC exams conclude, all Year 12 students will receive a copy of the UAC 2015 book with details needed for university applications. On this day there will also be a meeting regarding all the Early Entry Schemes for which students are eligible to apply, including the details, instructions and dates.

The rest of this term will be very busy and potentially stressful. Time management is vital, especially concerning due dates for applications for university, scholarships and accommodation. Students (and interested parents) are encouraged to check their emails several times a week for CareerAlerts. Parents may subscribe for this email service by going to: www.mccarthy.careersalert.com and clicking on *Email List* to enter their details so they too are aware of what is happening, what is available and when important deadlines fall.

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

THE LION KING



Last Wednesday 23 July, forty students, accompanied by Miss Sawtell and Mrs Perfrement, travelled to Sydney to see the musical *The Lion King* at the Capital Theatre. This theatre is the most breath taking, and the most visually captivating theatre that you will ever see.

The *Lion King* is a worldwide phenomenon that will surely redefine our student's expectations of theatre. All students thoroughly enjoyed the spectacular theatrical experience which has won over seventy major international theatre awards. For some of our

students, it was their first trip to Sydney, as well as their first experience of live theatre. It was a memorable, enjoyable and most rewarding experience for all of our extremely well-behaved students.



Mrs Suzanne Perfrement

AGRICULTURE

Good luck to Alex Watt (Year 9) who is representing NSW in the National Finals for Beef Cattle Handling at the Brisbane Royal Show this week. We also wish good luck to Tyler Smith (Year 11) and Pat Ferguson (Year 9) who are exhibiting cattle at the Ekka. Congratulations also to Tyler qualifying as a finalist in the 2014 Property Planning Competition. This makes Tyler one of the top five entrants for the competition which saw almost three hundred students get involved this year. Tyler and Year 11 Agriculture students will attend an awards ceremony at AgQuip later in the month to find out her final results.



Upcoming Events

The McCarthy Agriculture department will be offering two stud Simmental bulls and one Stud heifer for sale at the upcoming Country Capital Simmental Sale on 27 August. We are particularly hoping to make an impression with our bull McCarthy "Heartbreaker" who has been successful in the show ring for the past 12 months, winning Grand Champion European Bull at Armidale, 5 x Grand Champion Simmental Bull prizes, and placing in his class at Sydney. The pair of bulls are both rising two year olds and have been used for show team and education purposes by McCarthy students for the past 18 months with much enjoyment and success. Watch this space for a sale report later in the month and if you are interested in receiving more information on these stud cattle please contact the school.

Miss Leanne Sjollema – Agriculture teacher

SPORT

U16 Australian All Schools' Hockey Championships

Jack Cruickshank will travel to Adelaide 10 August – 16 August to compete in the Australian U16 Hockey Championships. We wish him well.

CCC Football

On 24 July, McCarthy played Round 2 of the CCC Football Championships against St Pauls of Kempsey at Coffs Harbour.

The game was played at a frenetic pace with Matthew Dunn scoring a goal followed by two to Kempsey taking the half-time score to 2 – 1. The second half saw McCarthy playing better football which resulted in a goal to Will Jackson to level the score at 2 – 2. Extra time looked imminent but a penalty saw Kempsey score the winning goal 3 – 2.

I would like to thank the team for the way they conducted themselves on and off the football field and Mr Michael Herden for driving the school bus.

The team consisted of: Jayden Booth, Cameron Cannon, Jarrod Chester, Nathan Climpson, Antonio Comi, Jake Curran, Matthew Dunn, Isaac Farmilo, Rhett Graham, Luke Guest, Will Jackson, Joseph Murphy, Christopher Ninness, Sean Riley, George Shvili, Alexander Wood.

Mr Ronny Rindo

McCarthy Netball

There will be a Netball meeting to discuss the 2015 season on Wednesday 13 August 5.30pm at school for interested parents. If a committee is not formed, McCarthy will no longer be involved in the Saturday Winter Competition and any interested netball players will need to affiliate with another club.

Football in Germany

Sophie Soles recently attended a football camp in Germany for four weeks. She trained twice a day in Reimsback with Elversberg Football Club coaches as well as receiving basic fitness testing. Sophie was fortunate to visit the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on a day trip and also witnessed Germany win the World Cup final. The team played a match against a football school in Frankfurt before attending more training camps and a day trip to Verdun, France, where they visited World War II memorials.

Water Polo

Jayden Gimbergh travelled to New Zealand during the school holidays to compete at the Pan Pacific Games playing for U16 Country NSW. The team performed extremely well, drawing with the USA (A) team and defeating New Zealand and other Australian State Teams. They won a silver medal, narrowly missing the gold by 2 points.