

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We pray for a new openness to the place of sacred scripture in our lives.

We pray that as we take small moments to encounter you more deeply in the words of scripture we will have more of your presence to share with each other and with the young people we love and serve. Give us a hunger to sit with you in your word spoken in the sacred texts.

Give us the desire to let the life of your Son shape us as we encounter him in the Gospels.

Lead us into a deeper knowledge of who you are, of your love for us and the love you have for each young person.

We ask this in your name.

Amen

Reflection

(A Catholic school) "... must be impregnated and penetrated by the thought, the spirit and the outlook of the Bible and the Gospels through assiduous contact with the texts themselves." (*Catechesis Tradendae Para 27*)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Year 12 Graduation

Last Thursday evening parents, staff and Year 12 students celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2014. We were honoured to have the Most Reverend Bishop Kennedy, Monsignor Wilkes, Fr O'Brien, Fr Roel, Deacon Harrison and Mrs Mel Nicholson (President of the McCarthy Association) present for the occasion and to have the Bishop address the gathering. It was a great occasion and a suitable final gathering of the graduating class. The school community wishes all graduates God's blessing for the future.

Remembrance Day

The 11th day of the 11th month is the day when Australians take time to remember the men and women who fought and died in wars. The date bears significance as it is the day the First World War ended, after four years of fighting. Close to 62,000 Australians, men and women, lost their lives during that war alone. Mrs Molony and the four school captains represented the school at the Tamworth Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony on Tuesday 11 November.

Creative Arts Evening

The annual Creative Arts Evening will be held in the College Hall this Monday from 6.00pm – 7.30pm. Student work from Visual Arts, Drama and Music will be on display, providing a snapshot of the outstanding talent in our school. I recommend attendance at this event.

Staff News

Our School Counsellor, Miss Clarissa Veil, married last weekend. This week we have welcomed her return as Mrs Clarissa Tebbatt. I congratulate Clarissa on behalf of the school community and wish Clarissa and James all the best for the future.

Examinations

Students in Years 7-10 have been completing the end-of-year examinations over the past two weeks. The time following the exams is as important as the preparation. Students are encouraged to actively receive the feedback provided by their teachers and act upon it by following up recommendations and working through improved responses. This is an extremely important learning tool. Reports will be released at the end of Week 10.

NAPLAN Improvement

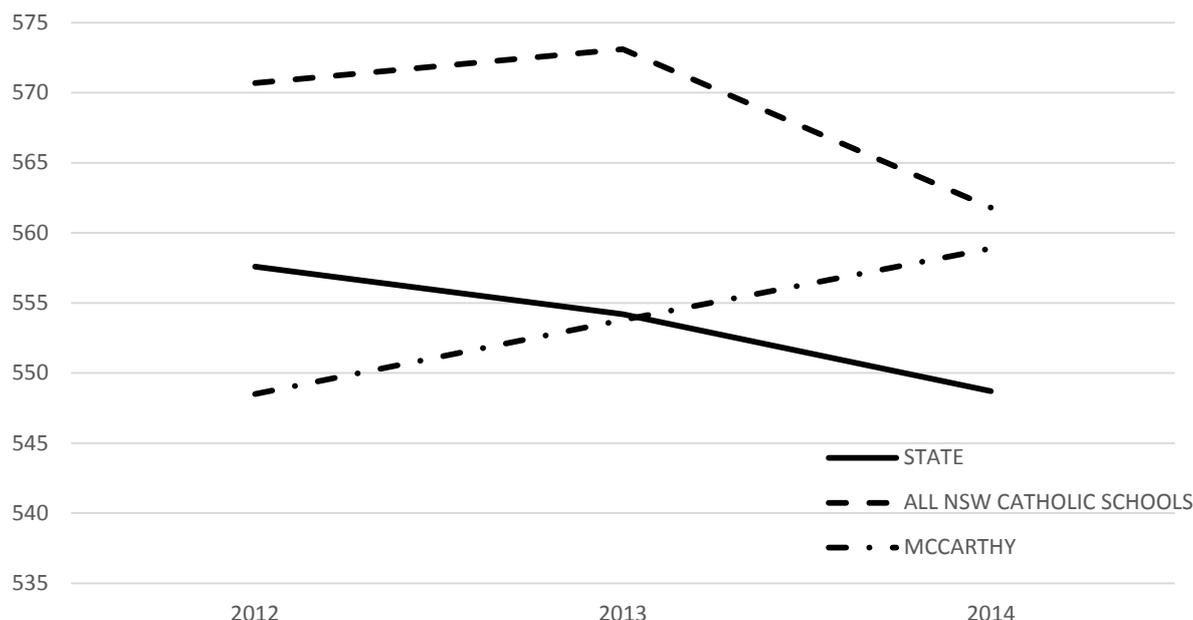
Further to my comments regarding the notable improvements in NAPLAN results, I am providing below the first of a series of graphs that indicate the degree of improvement. This graph demonstrates growth in Writing in our Year 9 cohorts over the past three years, measured against the State (all schools) and CEC (all NSW Catholic schools). It is a very pleasing trend that we hope will continue.

Mrs Kate Rayment – Principal

Diary Dates

14 Nov:	Association Trivia Night
17 Nov:	Creative Arts Evening 6.00pm
17 Nov:	Netball AGM
18 Nov:	Year 7 English Excursion
18 Nov:	Board & Association Meetings
18 Nov:	School Social 6.30pm
18 Nov:	Downie Shield
21 Nov:	Sports Awards Assembly
25 Nov:	New Parents 2015 Information Evening
26 Nov:	Year 7 2015 Orientation Day
1 Dec:	Year 10 Excursion
1 Dec:	Year 9 Excursion
2 Dec:	Band Camp – Narrabri
9 Dec:	Reconciliation
11 Dec:	Year 10 Social Event
15 Dec:	Award Night
17 Dec:	Last day of Term 4 for students
19 Dec:	Year 12 BBQ Breakfast

NAPLAN YR 9 WRITING TREND DATA



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Whole School Mass

On Tuesday 28 October, McCarthy celebrated the final whole school Mass for 2014 in the four Tamworth parishes. On behalf of the school community I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Tamworth priests for making our school Eucharistic celebrations possible.

St Agnes Conference

During this last fortnight the new St Agnes Conference executive held their first meeting. All six members of the executive fulfilled their roles with confidence and have instantly set about organising fundraising for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal. The new members will be formally inducted early in December. The details of this event will be published in the next newsletter.

Programming

In the oncoming weeks, the RE faculty will turn their attention to programming for the new revised units of work to be trialled with Year 7 students in 2015 and Catholic Studies which is being offered for the first time in Year 11 next year.

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our prayers and sympathy go to Nicola Mooney and family following the passing of her grandmother and to Jessie and Jack Cutcliffe and family following the passing of their grandfather.

Surviving Your Adolescents

Parents and members of the Pastoral Care team attended the seminar *Surviving Your Adolescents* presented by the Family Relationship Centre and Centacare. It was a very helpful and informative session and gave parents an opportunity to discuss their parenting experiences.

The 4 DO'S and DON'T'S presented were:

Give positive reinforcement – Let your teen know when they have done something well, praise the behaviour and be consistent.

Talk about yourself – Discuss your thoughts, your job, friends, or something interesting that happened in your day. Try not to have hidden messages or 'morals' in your discussions.

Listen actively – Be open, ask non-judgemental questions without sarcasm or belittling.

Spend time together having 'shared fun' – Just hang out without bringing up problems, one on one is best and make it regular eg see a movie and have a meal together.

It is hoped that this valuable seminar will be repeated early in 2015. Thank you to Pedro Sousa.

Mental Health Month

A series of lunchtime activities were held to increase awareness of mental health and the support available if needed. The activities included art, music, a BBQ and laughing yoga. We thank our guests Helen Carter (headspace), Dr Aditja Menon (Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Service) and Rod Thompson (Black Dog Institute).

Vaccinations

The 2014 Vaccination Program is now complete. Any Year 7 students who did not complete their course can catch up next year. Year 9 boys who began their HPV course may also complete it in 2015. Thanks to Julie Reid and her nurses who implement this potentially life-saving program in our school.

Course For Separated Parents

Keeping Kids in Mind (KKIM) is a 5 week accredited course (cost \$50) for separated and divorced parents in high conflict, and satisfies requirements of a court ordered separated parenting course. It will run Wednesdays 1.00pm to 3.30pm beginning 19 November. The course will be held at the V Guy Kable Building, 201 Marius St. Phone 67629200 for information and registration.

Year 10 Social Event

A Year 10 social event will be held on Thursday 11 December (Week 10). However, please note this is not a formal event.

Theme for the Week

Junior students were advised of exam skills and techniques that should enable them to achieve to the best of their ability during the exams. At all times during their preparation for and completion of exams they should be asking themselves: **What Can I Do To Get 2 More Marks?**

Year 11 students were encouraged to check for balance in their lifestyles. Good time management is essential to ensure that while study is kept the first priority there is adequate opportunity for family, socialising, interests, exercise and paid work (recommended 10 hours maximum with no late shifts before a school day). Adequate sleep, a healthy diet including breakfast and regular exercise all support effective learning and increased resilience.

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.

Mrs Julie McGregor – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Year 8**Mental Health Week**

Recently, McCarthy raised awareness about mental health issues through various activities held at lunch times throughout the week. Year 8 attended an informative talk given by Mr Rod Thompson, an ambassador for the Black Dog Institute. A number of Year 8 students assisted throughout the week by visiting Mentor Groups across the school to remind them of the various activities being held each day. Thank you to these students, you did a fantastic job!

Examinations

Good luck to all Year 8 students when sitting your end of year exams. Hopefully students are using their time wisely and have implemented a study plan to revise for each subject in which they have an examination 'failing to plan is planning to fail'.

ESSA Testing

On Tuesday November 11, all Year 8 students completed ESSA testing. The ESSA test is a state-wide interactive multimedia Science assessment program based on the NSW Science Years 7-10 Syllabus, which mandates the teaching of science in contexts that assist students to see the relevance of science and to make meaning of scientific knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes.

Touch

Congratulations to the following Year 8 girls who travelled to Penrith to compete in the NSW All Schools Touch Football Competition on Friday November 7: Rosie Ferguson, Madison Sharp and Breanna Williams.

Writers

Thank you to the following Year 8 students who have volunteered to act as writers during the examinations: Jamie-Rae Robinson, Shayla Groth, Lauren Barling, Jaymie O'Connor, Meg Sheppard, Lucy Cotton, Kane Clinch, Sophie Barr, Isobelle Sullivan, Will Clinch.

Mr Andrew Davy – Year 8 Coordinator

TEACHING AND LEARNING**Years 7 – 10 Examinations**

We are nearing the end of the formal examination period for Years 7 through to 10. It is pleasing to see the majority of students following procedure. However, there are still a few students who did not attend school on the day of their exam and we did not have any contact with parents via a phone call or email. These students have positioned themselves to receive zero for the task.

It is also disappointing to observe the number of students absent as a result of family holidays during this time. Please be mindful of exam periods when booking trips. This information can be found on the website or if in doubt, a phone call to the office can provide dates. As you are aware, we are in the process of an academic culture shift where hopefully all assessments are considered important by our school community. The students will find their senior studies easier if they have this mindset as their HSC results are dependent on the school based assessment mark and rank.

On the plus side, the staff have noticed a positive difference in the actions and behaviour of the majority of students as they move through the process of the exams. The students should be congratulated.

It is important to note that many classes will still have assessment tasks to complete after the exams so attendance and active participation is essential. It is tempting to slacken off towards the end of year by staying home as 'we're not doing anything much in class'. Rest assured that this is not true. This especially applies to our Year 11 students who must remember that they have started their HSC courses, many of which have an assessment task to complete prior to the end of year.

Year 11

The Year 11 students have received their Higher School Certificate Assessment Policy and Procedures booklet this week. Unfortunately, there were a number of students who did not attend the Mentor Group meeting and have missed out on important information. It is essential that these people seek me out to catch up with the information the rest of their year received. The plan is to use Mentor Group time to work through the booklet to ensure all students are aware of procedures so as not to disadvantage themselves.

ESSA

The Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) was conducted at McCarthy on Tuesday. Our Year 8 students sat the 80 minute interactive, multimedia online test during one of two timeslots. The results for your child will be available early next year and these results provide information about student achievements which are used to support teaching and learning programs. I would like to thank our Science Coordinator, Mr James Vella, for his organisation of this diagnostic test in which many NSW Year 8 Science students participate.

Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Last week, several students visited the University of Newcastle's Rural Health Unit's Open Day to see the facilities available to medical and allied health students on placement in Tamworth.

I will be meeting and talking with Year 10 students wishing to seek apprenticeships, other jobs and/or attend TAFE in 2015 this week and next week.

This week, over twenty students in Year 12 completed RSA and RCG courses hosted by the school to assist them with full and part-time employment.

Several local employers are advertising for apprenticeships and traineeships. If you are a local employer or know of one seeking to employ a school leaver, please contact me.

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

PARENT INFORMATION**Association Meeting**

The next meeting is Tuesday 18 November 7.00pm for 7.15pm start in the Staff Room.

Mango Orders

Thank you to those parents/friends who ordered mangoes. The delivery date will be advised.

Trivia Night

The MCC Association's Trivia Night will be held tomorrow evening (Friday 14 November). The fun night commences at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start in the hall. Cost is only \$10 per head payable on the night. Please bring gold coins, drinks and nibbles and remember that it is an over 18 only event. Prizes include the best dressed table/team, the winning team and bonus spot prizes will be awarded throughout the night. Last minute bookings can be placed Friday morning.

Hamilton Island Holiday Raffle

Thank you to families who have sold books of raffle tickets. The raffle will be drawn tomorrow night at the Trivia Night so tickets need to be returned Friday morning.

LANGUAGE

On 21 October, Indonesian Language classes had a treat with special guests Ibu Pam and Ibu Asri visiting from Bali, Indonesia. Each class group attended an hour and a half session with our guests, where they had their language skills tested as Pam and Asri introduced themselves and told a little about their lives. Students had the chance to ask questions about Indonesian culture and lifestyle, but they mainly wanted to know about food. Next, each group was taught to make *gelang uang* (money bracelets), which are a fad with Indonesian teens. Pam and Asri were impressed with the keen and happy students at McCarthy, as well as our beautiful grounds. It was a busy and successful day of cultural engagement and exploration.

Miss Kathryn O'Sullivan – Language Teacher

**EX - STUDENT NEWS**

Congratulations to ex-student Holly Ashcroft, studying at the University of Newcastle, who has been awarded the "Faculty of Business and Law Work Integrated Learning Student of the Year, 2014."

EUROPE**Expressions of Interest – Europe Cultural Tour (Adults) September/October 2015**

After a number of inquiries in regard to the possibility of tour of a Europe for adults, I have organised a very interesting tour that focuses on the best of Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. We explore: the wonders of Rome, the unique beauty of the Amalfi Coast and the Cinque Terre, the magnificence of Venice and Florence, the best of Italian hillside villages and Tuscany, the wonder of the Swiss Alps, the magic of Vienna, Prague and the Romantic Road, just to mention a few of the highlights.

The tour includes airfares and all transfers, a tour guide for the whole trip, admission fees and local tour guides for all the main attractions eg the Vatican, all breakfast and most dinners, 4 star plus hotels. If you are interested in this trip, please contact me on ph: 0419418806 or email dmchugh@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au for a detailed copy of the itinerary.

Ms Denise McHugh

NEW ENGLAND SINGS



On the first weekend in November, nine students represented McCarthy Catholic College at the New England Sings massed choir in Lazenby Hall at the New England University, Armidale. The students were: Olivia Jeffrey, Jamie-Rae Robinson, Shayla Groth, Maggie Fulwood, Julia Northey, Isobelle Sullivan, Harry Mills, Amy Mills and Charlotte Mills.

These students participated in a full day rehearsal on the Saturday and then performed in two concerts on the Sunday. The Massed Choir was accompanied by the New England Conservatorium of Music Orchestra. There were over 500 students on stage.

Visiting artists attending the performance included Lyn Williams (Gondwana Choir and conductor), Elena Kats-Chernin (Australian composer), Luke Byrne and Christopher Gordon (Australian

composer).

The audience was fabulous with almost 1100 audience members attending the two concerts. Organisers were thrilled with the response.

A filmmaker documented the process including regional workshops and the final weekend, including interviews with the composers, writers and conductors. The short documentary will be sent to participating schools when complete.

Mrs Suzanne Perfrement – Music Teacher



SPORT

Sports Awards Assembly

McCarthy Catholic College's inaugural Sports Awards Assembly will be held in the school Hall from 9.00am – 10.30am on Friday 21 November.

Separating the Sports Awards from the Awards Night gives us an opportunity to recognise the sporting achievements of students in front of their peers as a whole school.

We are lucky enough to have two special guests who will be addressing the College. Our first is Megan Isbester, who won the Vince Villa Award for Most Outstanding Female Athlete in NSWCCC in 2012. Our second special guest is Bryce Lindores, who is an Australian Paralympic Tandem Cyclist.

Awards that will be presented include Blues and Half Blues, as well as College Awards.

Invitations have been issued to students receiving awards, and also to parents and coaches who have assisted McCarthy Catholic College sporting teams.

Mr Matt Feltrin – Sports Coordinator

Notice of McCarthy Netball Club Annual General Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of the McCarthy Netball Club will be held on **Monday 17 November 2014** at **6.00pm** in the staff room at McCarthy Catholic College.

All interested parents are invited to attend. For further enquiries please contact Mrs Donna Forrest at the office.

Downie Shield Cricket

McCarthy Open Boys' Cricket team travelled to Armidale on Friday 31 October to play O'Connor Catholic College in the Downie Shield competition. O'Connor batted first, and scored 220 from 40 overs, with Tom Kelly (4/28) and Jack Murrie (2/36) the main wicket takers. McCarthy managed to overhaul the target for the loss of 5 wickets with 8 overs to spare. Liam Dunn scored a brilliant 102, and was well supported by Jye Paterson (47). McCarthy now progresses to Round 2 of the competition against St Paul's from Port Macquarie in Walcha next week.

Team: Beau Alderton, Cameron Clout, Jack Davison, Liam Dunn, Tom Kelly, Jack McSweeney, Matthew Pannowitz, Jye Paterson, Alex Stuart, Harrison Tibbles, Toby Whale, Jack Murrie.

Thank you to Mr Wayne Northey and Mr Tim Godden for accompanying the students and driving the bus.

Years 7/8 All Schools' Touch Finals

On 7 November the McCarthy 7/8 girls' Touch team competed in the All Schools' Touch Competition at Penrith winning two of their five games. The girls are to be congratulated on their conduct and sportsmanship. It was a great experience to play high calibre teams from across New South Wales. Our try scorers for the day were Tyla Endemi, Phoebe McLoughlin and Jessica Clarke. Results were as follows:

Lost 4 – 0 to Mackellar

Won 4 – 1 against Vincentia

Lost 3 – 2 to Tweed River High School (after having 2 tries disallowed)

Lost 2 – 1 to Hill Sports High School

Won 3 – 2 against Taree High School

Team: Jessica Clarke, Tyla Endemi, Rosie Ferguson, Sienna Kennedy, Phoebe McLoughlin, Emily Nicholson, Miah O'Sullivan, Laura Robertson, Grace Salter, Madison Sharp, Jasmine Shumack, Breanna Williams.

Thank you to Miss Mumford for accompanying the girls and to Mr Northey for driving the bus.



Australian All Schools' Athletics

Congratulations to Kate Pianta who has been selected in the NSW team for Australian All Schools' Athletics to be held in Adelaide on 5 December. Kate will compete in the 14 girls' long jump and the Under 14s 4 x 100 metre relay team. We wish her well.

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