

Newsletter



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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Dear brothers and sisters in Rome and throughout the world, Happy Easter!

What a joy it is for me to announce this message: Christ is risen!

I would like it to go out to every house and every family, especially where the suffering is greatest, in hospitals, in prisons ... Most of all, I would like it 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!

We too, like the women who were Jesus' disciples, who went to the tomb and found it empty, may wonder what this event 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.

This same love for which the Son of God became man and followed the way of humility and self-giving to the very end, down to hell - to the abyss of separation from God - this same merciful love has flooded with light the dead body of Jesus and transfigured it, has made it pass into eternal life. Jesus did not return to his former life, to earthly life, but entered into the glorious life of God and he entered there with our humanity, opening us to a future of hope.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ died and rose once for all, and for everyone, but the power of the Resurrection, this passover from slavery to evil to the freedom of goodness, must be accomplished in every age, in our concrete existence, in our everyday lives... How many deserts, even today, do human beings need to cross! Above all, the desert within, when we have no love for God or neighbour, when we fail to realise that we are guardians of all that the Creator has given us and continues to give us. God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. *Ez 37:1-14*). (Pope Francis' Easter prayer, 2013)

Reflection

Easter, more than any other time in the Church's year, embodies the rich hope of the good news that is ours to enjoy and share. Our belief and hope in the resurrection, which proves God's love for humanity, needs to be reflected upon in order for the "passover" purpose of each day to become our daily focus and motivation; so that we see each new day as an opportunity to move away from sin and towards goodness.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

For Catholics like me, Easter is a time of remembrance and reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His death as payment for my sins and His resurrection is the doorway to the gift from God the Father: everlasting life through Him.

However, for those who are not Christians or do not even believe in (a) God, the words above attributed to Jesus are still worthwhile as a life principle. Whether you believe that the biblical account of the life and death of Christ is real, or just a fairy tale with moral implications, the storyline that He willingly laid down His life for mankind so that we could be reconciled with God, is a powerful allegory on how we all should demonstrate our love for one another. It also brings to mind other words of Jesus on how we should love each other... the second greatest commandment: "Love your neighbour as yourself" Mark 12:31.

Regardless of your belief or faith or lack thereof, if we applied these principles in our everyday lives in our dealing with others, is there any doubt that the world would be a better place for all? It does not even have to entail literally sacrificing our life for others, but just figuratively laying down our life by sacrificing our pride, ambitions, self-centredness and selfishness (desires for others... for our wife, children, family members, friends, co-workers, etc.) If before we spoke or acted, we considered treating others as we would want to be treated, regardless of what anyone did or said to us, (laying down our pride or need to be "right"), there would be less hate in our lives.

The simple message I have gained from Easter this year is the sacrificial nature of love, manifested in the death of Jesus. I pray that the community of McCarthy Catholic College find the doorway to God the Father in the message of Jesus' sacrifice this Easter and while some may not ever know the warm embrace of the Catholic Church, as a chance encounter of something incredibly worthwhile and valuable, I encourage you to consider attendance at one of our parish masses over Easter.

New Staff

Due to a number of staff taking maternity leave in the coming months, I am pleased to announce the following contract appointments:

Miss Leanne Sjollem - Acting Year Level Coordinator (Year 7) for Mrs Melissa Bearup (Terms 2 and 3)

Mrs Jo McHugh for Mrs Melissa Bearup (Science – Terms 2 and 3)

Mrs Gill Downes for Mrs Jennifer Madden (English – Terms 2, 3 and 4)

Diary Dates	
2 April:	Term 1 concludes
3 April:	Good Friday
20 April:	Pupil Free Day
21 April:	Term 2 commences for students
22 April:	CCC Basketball – Penrith
28 April:	Association Meeting
1 May:	Diocesan Tennis, Cross Country & Golf
4 May:	CCC Swimming
8 May:	Diocesan Basketball – Tamworth
12-14 May:	NAPLAN
15 May:	Year 8 Maths Day – UNE
19 May:	ICAS Digital Technologies
19 May:	Board & Association Meetings
20 May:	Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews
21 May:	7/8 Girls' Netball Carnival - Tamworth
25 May:	Years 7 & 11 Half-Yearly Exams
27 May:	CCC Hockey – Grafton
29 May:	NW Equestrian Expo - Coonabarabran
29 May:	St Nicholas' Deb Ball

Miss Tegan Brodbeck for Mrs Erin Bice (English/RE – Terms 3 and 4)
Mrs Sophie Cottrell - Part-time English (2 x classes)

Congratulations to Mrs Briony Martin and her husband Nick on the safe arrival of Nina Pavel Martin on Monday. We wish Mrs Melissa Bearup and Mrs Jennifer Madden all the best for their leave from Term 2 and look forward to announcing the happy additions to the McCarthy family in upcoming newsletters.

Winter Uniform

Please note that the change-over date from Summer to Winter uniform will be the beginning of Week 3 in Term 2 (May 4). Full details can be downloaded from the website. Hats are a compulsory requirement for all outside play activities all year round.

Round 1 – Enrolment Interviews

Round 1 applications for enrolment in 2016 have closed on Wednesday 1 April. Families will be contacted for interview in the early weeks of Term 2. For those families wishing to apply for the second and final round, applications close on Wednesday 24 June.

Beginning of Term 2 – Tuesday 21 April

The teaching staff will begin the next term with a full day of professional development on Monday 20 April. Consequently, students will begin classes on Tuesday 21 April.

Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program has been discontinued. This means that TFN forms can no longer be processed by the school.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office. Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'

Have a safe, happy and holy Easter with your family and friends.

May your God go with you.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Liturgy

In Week 9 students from Years 7-10 attended the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the PAC. I would like to thank Monsignor Wilkes, Fr Willis, Fr O'Brien, Fr Curran and Fr Tuan for their assistance in making this opportunity available to our students. I would also like to sincerely thank Monsignor Wilkes for his liturgical support to the College over the past two years; we wish him well in his new position as Vicar General in Uralla and will keep him in our prayers.

Easter Wish

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Holy Easter and to encourage your attendance at the Easter celebrations in the parish churches.

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

At assembly recently we were asked to consider our relative wealth compared to many in the world. Lent, in particular, is a time to acknowledge what we have been gifted by God - warm beds, plentiful food and a beautiful environment and school. We demonstrate appreciation for these gifts through respect and gratitude. It is disappointing then, to hear of individuals disrespecting these gifts by deliberately leaving their rubbish or damaging school property. I encourage all students to demonstrate respect and gratitude for all that we have by acting responsibly. Please place all rubbish in the bin and encourage others to do the same.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day is a day of special significance for Australia and 2015 marks 100 years since the ANZACs landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. It is a time when we pause to sincerely acknowledge the contribution made by service men and women to our nation. This year, the commemorative events occur on the first Saturday of Term 2. McCarthy will participate in the ANZAC Day events - at the Dawn Service, ANZAC March and Main Service at the Town Hall, and at services in Quirindi and Manilla. All students are encouraged to attend and represent McCarthy, in full winter uniform, and to act with reverence throughout each of the services.

- Dawn Service - 5.30am ANZAC Park Gates
- Tamworth March - 10.00am (assemble in Bourke Street from 9.30am)
- Tamworth Memorial Town Hall - 10.45am

Students in Quirindi and Manilla should check with local RSL branches for beginning times.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to Lillian, Alex and Daniel Stuart following the passing of their grandmother.

Let's Stop Bullying

Friday March 20 was National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Students were fortunate to have an ex-student, Amy Devrell, who works with *headspace*, speak at assembly on the importance of reporting all concerns and assisting in stopping any type of bullying they may witness either at school or within the wider community. McCarthy Catholic College does not tolerate bullying and all reports are investigated.

"Each of us is different. Expect it. Respect it. Accept it!" (Anon)

Head Lice

We have had reported incidents of head lice within the school.

Please regularly check your child's hair for nits/lice using methods recommended by NSW Health.

(<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp>)

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended. Daily saturation with thick hair conditioner and combing using a fine tooth comb is effective in getting rid of head lice and eggs. Students should have long hair tied back and should not share hats. Further information is available on the website listed above.

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 4 May.

Holidays

Organisation is a key to success. During the break, please encourage your child 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.

Theme for the Week

During Week 8 we discussed safety; the state of being protected against physical, social and other types of harmful events including cybersafety.

"Let's Stop Bullying" was the Theme in Week 9 following on from the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Students were informed of what bullying is, what they can do at school if they are being bullied and strategies they can use away from school and online.

Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Office Bearers

A big thank you to our outgoing Executive and members for doing such a great job. Congratulations to the new incoming Executive and members. We look forward to a productive year.

Wine and Cheese Night

It was great to see some new faces at our Wine and Cheese Night. It was a good opportunity for new and current parents to meet the new principal.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting has been deferred from 21 April to 28 April at 7.15pm. Everyone is most welcome.

Camper Trailer Raffle

This year the McCarthy Association will be raffling a MDC Extreme Explorer V3 Camper Trailer plus inclusions valued at \$10,000. Tickets are \$2.00 each and will be drawn on Thursday 17 September 2015. The ticket books are available at the office for students to collect. The funds raised will be used to benefit ALL students at the school. Click on the link:

https://learning.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/pluginfile.php/10768/mod_resource/content/1/Camper%20Trailer%20Raffle.pdf

Attention Business Owners: Can you help us promote our Camper Trailer Raffle and sell tickets? We will provide an A4 coloured flyer in a perspex counter stand, a money tin and raffle ticket books. Please contact Louise Henry at henlou@bigpond.com

We wish all parents, staff and students a happy and safe Easter.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

In this final newsletter of the term, it would be timely to revisit the topic of school planners. I have noticed that some students are leaving their planners at home or in their lockers and no longer bringing them into class. Some parents may have received a Letter of Concern indicating that your child has not followed the school expectation regarding school planners. It is expected that students have their school planner with them at all times so they can record important information.

In the early days of the term, teachers reminded students about using their planners, hoping to encourage a productive work ethic. As the year progresses, it is assumed that the students have continued with this useful tool that enables them to remember to complete and submit the necessary work on time.

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 for every student. Not only does this planner contain very useful school information, it provides students with the opportunity to record the work they need to complete, whether it is homework or assessment tasks. They can also record questions for their teachers that pop up while they are working at home.

The school planner also serves as a communication tool between you and your child's teacher.

Of course writing down their homework is only the first step. When your child sits down to begin their homework, they should refer to their planner so they are reminded what they need to do. Then, as Nike so clearly states: JUST DO IT!

Please ask your child about their planner and encourage them to use it so that they can make it easier for themselves to succeed.

There may even be a message in there for you. If you find that your child is having trouble there are instructions for effective use on page 6. If your child is not using their planner due to it being lost, they now have two weeks to hunt it out in readiness for Term 2.

The office has replacement senior and junior planners for purchase if needed.

Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Year 11

Earlier this week I spoke to Year 11 students at a Year meeting about what they can be doing during the rest of this year and next to improve their chances of successfully gaining employment, a scholarship or a place at university. They need to be developing a good work ethic at school and at home, as well as becoming involved in school and community activities. I also mentioned the importance of subject selection right through to the HSC.

Year 12

There will be several opportunities for Year 12 students to visit university Open Days and the Careers Expo at TRECC in Term 2. More information will be available via emails to Year 12 students and parents who subscribe to the McCarthy CareersAlert Email Service. Go to <http://www.mccarthy.careersalert.com/> and click on EMAIL LIST at the top of the page to receive regular updates.

Work Experience

This term we have had students partake in work experience locally, at zoos and with the Navy by taking advantage of opportunities and by following the procedures and paperwork involved to enable this to happen.

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

ENGLISH

Federation Cup Debating

McCarthy were successful in retaining the Federation Cup for a second year. Thank you to the parents and students who supported our teams through their audience participation.

The Stage 4, 5 and 6 teams worked very hard to prepare for each debate and it was so encouraging to see the students improve from week to week and grow in confidence. The Stage 5 and 6 teams were undefeated in the competition and the Stage 4 team only narrowly lost two debates.

The students who comprised each team were:

Year 8 team: Sophia Anderson, Jonathon Abra, Abigail Kelly, Alana Noonan and Ryan Thompson.

Year 10 team: Karie Mayman, Katherine Sleiman, Emily Thompson and Isabelle Turner.

Year 12 team: Lauren Challens, Vindya Dayaratne, Bridget Galvin, Teanna Haywood and Pippa Herden.

Thank you also to the teachers who gave of their time and support to coach each team: Mrs Shannon Monro, Miss Kathryn O'Sullivan and Miss Rebecca Hannan.



Mrs Katrina Sullivan – English Coordinator

DRAMA NEWS

ITC: Inter-school Theatresports Competition

On Wednesday 25 March, Preliminary Drama students competed in the annual Inter-School Theatresports Competition (ITC).

We had two groups enter the senior division of the competition and had a number of notable mentions, along with an overall second with one of our teams.

I was incredibly proud of the conduct and the improvisational skill which was displayed by our Preliminary Drama students. They enjoyed the day thoroughly and gained great insight into the elements which make good Drama.

YEAR 8 THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE



Last Wednesday 28 March, Year 8 students, along with several Elective Drama and Music students, watched the entertaining play "The Importance of Being Earnest: A Musically Mad Mini-Version"!

Students appreciated the three actors' ability to play multiple roles, sing, act and puppeteer. Students were also engaged by the inclusion of contemporary references in the performance.

The students asked several intelligent questions at the end of the play and were surprised to learn that our afternoon performance was the third that the troupe had played that day and that, in total, the actors would perform over 300 shows before returning to New Zealand.

There are several plays being performed at the Capitol Theatre this year, both local and imported. Prices for students are very reasonable and the experience of live theatre is invaluable. I encourage you to take a look at the Capitol Theatre's website (<http://www.capitoltheatretamworth.com.au>) and share the experience of live theatre with your children.

Ms Felicity Sawtell – Drama/English Teacher

SPORT

Water Polo

McCarthy had another successful water polo season, with two teams making it into the grand finals. The girls' McCarthy Blue team competed against Tamworth High in the 14s final. Both teams played extremely well, however, the girls were defeated 9 to 5. The boys played William Cowper in the 14s final. Unfortunately, the boys lost a tight game 7 to 5.

Kane Clinch, Jake Mitchell and Jayden Gimbergh also played in the 16s and Opens divisions in a combined schools' team, the Pirates. While the boys lost in the 16s they managed to win the Opens division in a goal shootout after full-time.

Three players were given special awards. Billie Mitchell, from McCarthy Blue, was awarded Best and Fairest for the season and Gabrielle Joice, from McCarthy Gold, was awarded Top Goal Scorer. Jake Mitchell, from the 14s boys' team, was awarded both Best and Fairest for the season and Top Goal Scorer.

I am very proud of how the McCarthy teams conducted themselves each week and I would like to congratulate them for their efforts throughout the entire season.

I wish Billie Mitchell, Harriet Lyden, Miah O'Sullivan, Bianca Watson, Jorja Irwin, Cameron Martin and the 14s girls assistant coach, Alice Lyden, good luck at the 14s National Water Polo Championships held this week.

Miss Erin Cannon – Water Polo Coordinator

Diocesan Touch

On Thursday 26 March the Diocesan Touch trials were held in Inverell with the following students in attendance:

Blake Ginman, Cassidy Hunter, Conor Lang, Jake Mitchell, Dougal O'Reilly, Tom Sharman, Tom Sheppard, Hamish Sparke, Kaylah Daly, Rosie Ferguson, Abbey Geddes, Ella Heeney, Kaylah Higgisson, Phoebe McLoughlin, Miah O'Sullivan, Odette Joyce, Jessica Ruttley, Olivia Ruttley, Emma Sheaves, Jack Davison, Liam Dunn, Patrick Ferguson, Lachlan Glasson, Tristan Hunter, Will Jones, Tom Keogh, Jye Paterson, Brody Peak, Aaron Ritchie, Chloe Coe, Brodie Ingram, Alice Murphy, Megan Murphy, Cara Paterson, Taylah Ryan, Matilda Shumack, Kaylah Torode.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to participate at NSWCCC Touch Trials in Port Macquarie on 16 June:

Rosie Ferguson, Ella Heeney, Phoebe McLoughlin, Miah O'Sullivan, Olivia Ruttley, Patrick Ferguson, Lachlan Glasson, Tom Keogh, Jye Paterson, Chloe Coe, Brodie Ingram, Cara Paterson and Taylah Ryan.

Thank you to Miss Frances Mumford and Mr Nick Fahey for accompanying the students to Inverell.

Ron George Shield Cricket

On Monday 23 March, McCarthy contested the Ron George Shield Cricket final against Farrer at No 1 Oval.

Farrer batted first scoring 8/165 from their 20 overs. Wicket takers were Keytan Hislop 3/21, Jack Hannaford 2/26, with Alex Cook, Jack Murrie, James Austin and Beau Alderton taking one wicket each. Unfortunately, McCarthy fell 19 runs short of Farrer's total with 4/146. Toby Whale top scored with 43, Lachie Glasson 24 no, Jack Hannaford 20 no, Jye Paterson 19, Keytan Hislop 13 and Matt Hughes 6. Congratulations to the boys on an outstanding season.

2014/15 Cricket Report

McCarthy fielded two Year 9/10 teams in combination with several Oxley boys, two Year 7/8 teams and seventeen Year 7 playing in the local school competition.

Congratulations to the Year 9/10 McCarthy Blue team who made the final and won convincingly against Farrer. Team: Jye Paterson, Kuzi Jaravani, Jack Hannaford, Ehren Hazel, Lachlan Glasson, Ryan Baker, Connor Robinson, Toby Whale and Tom Fitzgerald.

Thank you to Mr Peter Virgen and Mr Paul Austin for training the teams on Thursday afternoon and to our coaches Mr John Murrie, Mr Chris Paterson, Mr Paul Austin, Mr Dale Rogers and Mr Bede Maher for their time and dedication to MCC Cricket. This is appreciated by the students, their parents and the committee.

Thank you to those parents who have supported our coaches by scoring and assisting whenever required. McCarthy always shows great sportsmanship.



The following boys were selected in the Tamworth Junior Representative team: Liam Dunn, Jack Davison, Toby Whale, Jack Hannaford, Kuzi Jaravani, Jye Paterson, James Austin, Joe Doherty, Ryan Rogers, Nick Pannowitz, Daniel Stuart and Luke Maher. Jye Paterson was selected in the NSWCCC team and is currently attending trials for selection in the All School team. Thank you to Mrs Maureen Alderton for many years of support. This will be Maureen's last year with the MCC Cricket Club and she will be sorely missed. Thank you to Mrs Natalie Paterson for many hours each week assisting with our teams and generally running MCC Cricket Club.

Bill Turner Trophy Football – Girls

McCarthy Catholic College recently played Round 1 of the Bill Turner Trophy Knockout Competition against Carinya Christian School at Tamworth. The match was played on a well prepared ground under fairly warm conditions. Ella Heeney played strongly for McCarthy dominating the forwards but unfortunately was unable to score. Carinya opened the scoring with a goal in the first half and another in the second half. McCarthy responded with a late goal in the second half. The final result was Carinya 2, McCarthy 1.

Thank you to Mr Michael Herden for driving the school bus.

Team: Heidi Backhouse, Sophie Barr, Michelle Coates, Georgia Curtis, Isabel Davis, Rosie Ferguson, Ella Heeney, Molly Johns, Jessie O'Mally, Maddison Potts, Amy Riley, Arnastasia Sellers, Emma Sheaves, Ella Wilkinson.

Mr Ronny Rindo

Have the gift of an easy Christmas this year !

Take the worry and stress out of planning for this Christmas.
Ask us about our special Christmas Club savings accounts.



ADIG

Armidale: 1800 040 903

Tamworth: 1800 803 194

Armidale Diocesan Investment Group