

# Newsletter



Telephone: (02) 6761 0800

Postal Address: PO Box 3486 West Tamworth NSW 2340

Email: admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

Facsimile: (02) 6766 4557

Website: www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

McCarthy Office Hours: 7.30am – 4.00pm

## Dear Parents & Students,

### Prayer

Prayer for Families

God, our loving Father, you have made us in your own image and shared with us your own family life.

Bless our families and guard us from physical and moral danger.

Strengthen the love of husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, daughters and sons.

Grant healing to all families who experience division or rejection, and keep us attentive to their needs.

Fill every home with your peace, joy and love and make our families living witnesses to your presence in the world.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus

Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Reflection

In the Armidale Diocese, the week of 20 to 26 July has been designated 'Marriage and Family Week' by Bishop Kennedy. During this week he has asked that we reflect on Sacramental Catholic marriage and pray for families and married couples.

## PRINCIPAL MATTERS

The second week of Term Three has been designated 'Marriage and Family Week' by Bishop Kennedy. The expectations of Bishop Kennedy for our schools is that at least one RE lesson during Marriage and Family Week is to be used to focus on marriage, and secondly that the school is to actively encourage families and staff to attend the Marriage and Family Week Mass being held in every parish on the weekend of 26 July. In a time where the sacrament of marriage and the sanctity of the family unit are increasingly more important, I encourage and invite all families to join in community at your local parish church this Sunday.

In the holidays we received the very sad news that Luke Hannaford passed away after a long battle with illness. He was 20 years old. While I am personally new to the McCarthy community I have been told at length that Luke was an exceptionally courageous young man who was always optimistic and cheerful in the face of great adversity and we can all learn a great deal from the courage and dignity he displayed. I know you will join with me in offering our deepest condolences and prayers for the family.

As the Year Twelves move into HSC trials I commend the diligence and effort of our students and staff. I particularly identify the generosity of spirit of those staff who gave up time over the holidays to offer tutorials for volunteer students to hone and refine their knowledge and skills prior to the exam period. Once again another example of the student and staff commitment to academic rigour and excellence at the college.

Similarly, I commend the work of our Careers Advisor - Susan Barrett for her efforts in planning and delivering the University Information night last Wednesday. The expert input from representatives from three of our local Universities as well as Susan's intimate knowledge of the ATAR calculations and UAC application process presented a quality opportunity for students and their parents to clarify their concerns and queries as they embark on their journey towards tertiary education.

### NAIDOC Assembly

On Wednesday we celebrated NAIDOC week with a special whole school Assembly and welcomed local Gomeri Elders to share in the ceremony. As a significant event in the national calendar I commend the skilful and dedicated work of Jodie Herden and Joelene Faint in preparing the assembly in collaboration with our aboriginal students. I quote the following as a summary of the 2015 NAIDOC theme –

*This year's theme was selected by the National NAIDOC Committee to honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year the theme highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. The theme is an opportunity to pay respects to country; honour those who work tirelessly on preserving land, sea and culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places with the nation.*

*NAIDOC Week 2015, is an opportunity for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to join together to recognise the valuable contribution Indigenous people have made to this country. We ask you all to take time to look around yourselves and embrace the beauty of this country that we call home. We live in such a fast paced society and often miss the beauty that nature has given us. Allow yourselves the time to breathe that fresh country air deep into your lungs and feel the gentle breeze against your cheek. Kick off your shoes and connect with the earth beneath our feet. We are the guardians of our country. We need to nurture and protect her for future generations.*

I similarly commend the creative talents of these students in performing traditional dance and cultural workshops for the local Catholic Primary school students over the past few weeks.

### Diary Dates

27 July:	HSC Trials commence
27 July:	Years 7/8 Netball Carnival
28 July:	ICAS English competition
28 July:	Toastmasters Youth Leadership Course
28 July:	Europe Excursion Information Evening
30 July:	Australian Mathematics Competition
<b>31 July:</b>	<b>Pupil Free Day</b>
7 Aug:	Whole School Mass
11 Aug:	ICAS Mathematics
14 Aug:	Diocesan Athletics – Armidale
18 Aug:	Board & Association Meetings
24 Aug:	CCC Junior Basketball Finals
27 Aug:	Young Drivers Expo (Year 11)
28 Aug:	Walkathon
7 Sept:	Year 11 Exams commence
8 Sept:	Year 12 Twilight Retreat
9 Sept:	Year 12 Graduation Mass 6pm

### Jump Rope for Heart

The annual fundraising event for the National Heart Foundation, Jump Rope for Heart, was held on Thursday 16 July in the College Hall. I acknowledge the wonderful work of Ian McKenzie and the PDHPE staff for the vibrant spirit that pervaded the day and I also congratulate the students for their enthusiastic participation and creativity of team costumes. Another wonderful community event at McCarthy - well done to all!

### Camper Trailer Raffle

The Parent Association have been working very hard behind the scenes to provide funds to support the learning environment here at McCarthy. Their most recent effort has centred on the sale of tickets for a wonderful fully appointed camper trailer that is valued at over \$10 000. Students can collect tickets from the office to sell at home to family and friends, and local businesses can contact the office for signage to sell tickets in their place of business. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the term. So, buy a ticket soon to avoid disappointment!

### Reminder

There is a **PUPIL FREE DAY** for teaching staff on **Friday 31 July**. Students are not to attend school at McCarthy on **Friday 31 July** please as the staff will be working with Bishop Michael Kennedy and engaging with the *Catholic Principles and Values* document from the Armidale Diocese.

### On-Line School Results Survey – August 3 - 14

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuously improving the school, we believe it is critical to seek each parent and guardian's opinion on a range of issues relating to McCarthy Catholic College. Your feedback is very important to us as we continue to build a successful school and strengthen our reputation as an 'educator of choice'.

As such, the CSO Armidale have engaged the professional services of MYP Corporation (MYPCorp) to undertake a strictly private and confidential School Results Survey on our behalf. The survey should take approximately 10 - 15 minutes and will need to be completed online between August 3 and August 14. There are no right or wrong answers and we ask that you respond honestly to each statement. Please note that this survey will be confidential. No member of the Executive team at McCarthy will have access to your individual responses. We will be provided with a summary of collated results only. MYPCorp will undertake the following process to ensure anonymity:

1. Parents and guardians will be emailed individual survey logins.
2. Results will be collated externally.
3. A summary of collated results will be provided to the school Executive team.

On the survey start date, survey instructions and a personalised login link will be emailed to all parents. You will continue to receive friendly reminders during the survey period until you have submitted the survey. Thank you for your contribution to improving our school in anticipation of your response.

### Book Sellers Prize

The winner of the Term 2 Book Sellers Prize is Liam Crowell. Congratulations.

May your God go with you.

*Mr Geoff McManus – Principal*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During this term in RE classes students have begun new units of work and are working on product-based group assessment tasks. Students in Year 7 will be producing designs for prayer stations for a McCarthy Catholic College Prayer Walk; Year 8 students will be working on designs for visual learning aides for use in the teaching of the unit 'People and Ministries in the Church' and Year 9 students will be producing prayer leaflets for the celebration of Reconciliation as part of their study of Sacraments of Healing.

Year 12 Studies of Religion students have finished their HSC course and are now revising and preparing for the Trial HSC. On behalf of the SOR teachers I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well.

*Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator*

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Year 10 students received the first draft of the 2016 Year 11 line pattern this week. This draft was created after tallying the preferential sheets handed in last term. All students were asked to complete the form, and to indicate where clashes might be occurring so that revisions and adjustments can be made. The aim is to have 'best fit' for the majority of students. In order for this to occur, it is important that students return the forms by due dates.

*Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal*

## PASTORAL CARE

### Welcome

We welcome Kye-Isha Swan (Year 7) and Rian Stirling (Year 10) and their families to the McCarthy community.

### Condolences

The McCarthy community would like to reflect on the life of Luke Hannaford and how much we appreciated his life. Our sympathy goes to Leanne, Greg, Zoe and the families as we ask God to open our hearts to your healing grace as we all journey together in this time of suffering and pain.

Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Libby, Luke and the Maher family following the passing of their Grandfather.

May God give eternal peace to all members of our families and friends who have died and comfort us in this time of sorrow.

### Winter Uniform

Please ensure that correct winter uniform is being worn at all times. If you are in need of a school jumper, please come and see me.

*Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator*

## PARENT INFORMATION

**CANCELLATION: Tenpin Bowling Social Night this Friday 24 July has been CANCELLED.**

### Camper Trailer Raffle

We would like to thank the following businesses for assisting the McCarthy Association's Camper Trailer Raffle:- ADIG, Manilla Hardware and Tamworth Small Engines, Boating Camping Fishing (BCF), Kingswood Store, Kez's Hair Design, Moonbi General Store, Ferry's Motor Trimmers, Peel Valley Tiles, North West Neurology, Northapp Appliances, Southern Steel – the Sheetmetal Specialists, Country Auctions and Plaza Shoe Repairs.

### Booksellers Prize

All books sold/part sold and returned by 11 September will be in the running for the Term 3 Booksellers Prize.

### Save the Date

Trivia Night on Friday 13 November. More information to follow soon.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday 18 August at 7.15pm. Everyone is most welcome.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Term Three has begun with the Years 8, 9 and 10 Parent Teacher Interviews being held on Tuesday evening. Many teachers will join with me in saying it was a pleasure to meet many of you for the first time, while it was good to see some familiar faces. The hall was abuzz with plans being formulated for improved results and discussions detailing how we can work in partnership with you and your child so they can realize their potential.

While things have settled down for a while for most of the school, this term is a busy time for Year 12 as it is their last term of formal classes. Week 3 also brings the beginning of the Trial HSC examination period. For many subjects, this exam is the final assessment task that will allow teachers to rank the students. We have to submit a school-based assessment mark along with a rank to BOSTES. This information, along with their performance in the final exam, determines their HSC mark. It is vital that the students maintain their focus and practise their study skills in readiness for their exams in Term 4. This is another chance for them to work out what techniques work for them in terms of studying.

All students are advised to keep in mind the following tips to ensure they utilise the opportunities presented to them at school:

1. **ASK FOR HELP:** Ask for help whenever unsure about anything.
2. **POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** Look for ways to enjoy things about school and be positive in their attitude. It makes a big difference.
3. **USE CLASS TIME:** Really make the most of every lesson, staying focused and on-task and completing all the work. Really listen and think in every lesson.
4. **SCHOOL PLANNER:** Always write homework and assessment tasks in immediately and check it every afternoon at home. Stay up-to-date with homework and complete all work. Hopefully planners were hunted out in the holidays for a fresh start this term.
5. **START EARLY:** Start assessment tasks and test preparation early. Students may be given other work later on so it is a good idea to start tasks straight away and even try and have them finished before the due date.
6. **ALWAYS DO THEIR BEST:** Don't worry about comparing themselves with other people, just always aim to do their best in everything they do for school and they will feel happy and their teachers and you will be pleased with their effort.

*Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

## FRENCH

During week 1, a 15year old French student, Alexis, visited our school. He met all the French students and presented his family, town and the French school system to Years 8 and 9. He also participated in activities and discussions in French with Year 10 and 12 students. Alexis also accompanied some Year 10 students to other classes.

Alexis said that he really enjoyed visiting McCarthy where everything is so different to France (no school uniforms, longer days). He was especially impressed by our Assembly and enjoyed it when everyone sang the National Anthem. Alexis studies English at school and said he could understand much more by the end of the week. Thank you McCarthy for making him feel welcome!

*Mrs Oriane Monet - Language Teacher*

## CAREERS

On Thursday 25 June 2015, Year 12 students attended the Newcastle University Schools Open Day.



Mrs Susan Barrett – Careers Adviser  
[careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)

## AGRICULTURE

### Junior Judging Zone Finals

Last weekend, several junior students from the McCarthy Show Team travelled to Gunnedah to compete in the Zone Finals for Junior Judging. This year competitors were exposed to a wide variety of judging classes such as Grains, Fruit and Vegetables, Merino Sheep, Fleece judging and Beef Cattle judging.

There were experts in each of these areas present to give the students an education session prior to the competition. Both students and teachers found this part of the day very interesting! Ben Hewitt was placed third in Grains, making him the Reserve representative for the State Finals next year!! Ryan Rogers was selected to talk about his placings for his vegetable class and Ben also had to speak on his Merino Sheep class. Elise Cocking and Bec Holm rounded out a very enthusiastic and excited team. Over all it was a wonderful weekend and a great way to kick off Show Team activities for 2015.



### Limousin Camp

On the last weekend of the holidays, several students took the time to participate and compete at the Limousin Camp independently. Alex Watt (10) was successful in winning Champion Intermediate Parader and Tyler Smith was awarded "Best Presented" for her presentation of her heifer as well as Champion Herdsperson for her age group.

Congratulations must go to both girls for continuing to pursue their interest and for showing their skills in this arena. Well done.



Miss Leanne Sjollema  
 Agriculture Teacher

## SPORT

Welcome back to Term 3 in Sport at McCarthy. With our busiest term behind us, we look forward to a number of important sporting competitions this term:-

- \* NSWCCC Cup Football in Coffs Harbour (July 16)
- \* NSW All Schools Cross Country in Eastern Creek (July 17)
- \* Netball NSW Competition for Year 7/8 in Tamworth (July 27)
- \* Diocesan Athletics Carnival in Armidale (August 14)
- \* NSWCCC Junior Basketball Finals in Penrith (August 24, 25)
- \* NSWCCC Athletics Championships in Homebush (September 11)
- \* Netball NSW Years 7/8 Schools Cup Qualifying Tournament in Tamworth (May 21)
- \* National Touch Football Championships in Sunshine Coast (September 16-19)
- \* Continuation of Friday Night Rugby Union

Good luck to all our students competing in these various competitions this term.

### NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR WORLD TITLES RODEO

Congratulations to Anna Crisp who competed in June for the first time at the Junior World Titles National High School Rodeo in Des Moines, USA in the Breakaway Roping and Pole Bending Event.

Anna placed 5<sup>th</sup> with a time of 3.3 seconds in her round and 19<sup>th</sup> overall out of 160 competitors.

Congratulations Anna.



Mr Matt Feltrin – Sports Coordinator