

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

We pray for all refugees forced to leave their homes.

We remember all those who have been turned away by others.

Bring them to a place of safety where they may find warm and welcoming hearts.

We pray for those who have lived long in this land.

Help them to look beyond themselves and care for others.

May they welcome the stranger in their midst, and speak out for justice.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Reflection

A Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants is set aside each year in Catholic parishes to fall as close as possible to World Refugee Day on 20 June.

In St Nicholas Parish the day set aside to pray for and celebrate the refugees and migrants who have arrived and now enliven our local culture is Sunday 23 August.

'It is necessary to respond to the globalisation of migration with the globalisation of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions of migrants more humane.'
(Pope Francis: Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2015.)

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

I have recently attended a Principal's Meeting in Moree to continue the systemic conversation with colleagues and the Director - Mr Chris Smyth, around improving student outcomes in our schools within the Armidale Diocese. While a great deal of good work is being done by our teachers at McCarthy to interrogate student performance, much research would suggest that the best way forward is to intentionally develop Catholic Professional Learning Communities (CPLC). Iterations of successful CPLC in schools focus on four key areas:

1. Catholic Principles and Values
2. A relentless focus on learning for all students
3. A collaborative culture and collective effort to support student and adult learning
4. A results orientation to improve practice and drive continuous improvement.

To facilitate this type of community of learners for our students and teachers, we have invested a good deal of time and money in professional development, training and resourcing to grow our CPLC. For example, staff are being trained in the Google Suite this term to facilitate ubiquitous access to learning resources as well as promoting collaboration between teachers and ultimately with the students. Classrooms are progressively being fitted out with touchscreen monitors to phase out the data projectors and teachers will begin trials with laptops by the end of the term.

NAPLAN

We are also excited this week to begin our latest analysis of this year's NAPLAN data to determine our level of success in enhancing learning gain. As a school committed to continuous improvement, NAPLAN, in combination with our PAT-R and PAT-N testing, is just another in a long list of ways to measure whether our data-informed teaching strategies are enhancing learning gain for our students. I feel confident that due to the diligence of our teaching staff that the improvement trend of previous years will continue.

Rugby

I commend the efforts of those students that have been involved with the Friday Night Rugby Union competition. While the season has dragged on from Term 2 due to many postponed games as a consequence of much-needed rain, the quality of rugby has been commendable and the students have presented themselves in a responsible manner. While not all teams have made the finals this Friday, McCarthy is proud of all the effort at training and on the field this season. I publically thank the coaches, managers and players for representing McCarthy in the right spirit.

Walkathon

A final reminder to please support the Walkathon on August 28. As a school that has raised on average over \$25,000 per year due to the hard work and generosity of students, families and local businesses, I encourage you all to get behind this wonderful event in 2015. Remember - if every McCarthy student could raise \$30 each our outreach to those in need would be in excess of \$27,000.

Camper Trailer Raffle

Time is running out to purchase a ticket. Only three weeks to go until the big draw for the \$10,000 Camper Trailer. Buy a ticket soon to avoid disappointment! All sold tickets must be returned by September 11 please.

Diary Dates

24 Aug:	CCC Junior Basketball Finals
24 Aug:	HSC Drama marking
26 Aug:	School Social 6.30pm
27 Aug:	Young Drivers Expo (Year 11)
28 Aug:	HSC Industrial Technology marking
28 Aug:	Walkathon
31 Aug:	HSC Creative Arts Evening 5.30pm
1 Sept:	Year 7/8 Touch Carnival
1 Sept:	Netball AGM 5.30pm in A4
1 Sept:	Europe Meeting in Staff room 6.00pm
2 Sept:	West League Challenge Cup 4.00pm
7 Sept:	Year 11 Exams commence
8 Sept:	Year 12 Twilight Retreat
9 Sept:	Year 12 Graduation Mass 6.00pm
10 Sept:	HSC Music 1 marking
10 Sept:	Year 9/10 Science Investigation Awards
11 Sept:	CCC Athletics
15 Sept:	Board & Association Meetings
16 Sept:	Year 12 Farewell Assembly

HSC Creative Arts Evening

An exhibition and performance of Creative Arts HSC works will be held from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Monday 31 August in the PAC. This will include artworks, music and drama.

May your God go with you.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**Educational Access Scheme (EAS)**

At a recent meeting, Year 12 students were given details of the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) for students who are making a UAC application and have experienced long-term educational disadvantage as a result of circumstances beyond their control or choosing. Categories of disadvantage include disrupted schooling, financial hardship, home environment, English language difficulties, personal illness/disability and school environment. In all cases, specific evidence of the disadvantage is required. Twenty-five specific types of disadvantage are covered and students can benefit, depending on the institution, in one of two ways; some offer bonus points, while others reserve a certain number of positions for EAS applicants. Students may collect an application form from me. The due date for submission is 30 September.

House Points

Just a reminder that all students can contribute points to their respective Houses for the prestigious HOUSE MERIT award. House points will be awarded for attendance at the social and based on Mentor Group fundraising activities. Students are encouraged to do their bit, be an Everyday Hero, have fun and earn House points!

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On Friday 7 August, McCarthy celebrated the third Whole School Mass. Dominic house attended St Patrick's where they celebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Kennedy who was in the parish to celebrate Confirmation. Chisholm house attended Mary Help of Christians where Father Paul Anthony celebrated the Eucharist and Edmund Rice and MacKillop houses both attended St Nicholas' with Father Joe. Over the past three weeks Father Joe has visited each Year 9 RE class and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Bishop and the priests for their ongoing support for the Sacramental program at McCarthy.

Vinnies

On Friday 14 August, McCarthy held the annual Tacky Tracky Day fundraiser for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. We would like to thank everyone for their support of this day, it has been the most successful Tacky Tracky Day to date raising \$1,300.00. This money will be forwarded to the St Vincent de Paul Society for the Winter Appeal.

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE**Welcome**

We welcome Georgia Coker and Bailii-Anne Bickhoff and their families to the McCarthy community.

Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Year 12

The final weeks leading to the HSC are essential and beneficial to the individual student. It is compulsory for all Year 12 students to attend school until the end of term. In some subjects there is further content to teach and assessments to be completed. All subjects have a strong study program in place to consolidate content and writing skills which are both essential for the HSC examinations. The trial papers and data have been examined to design an effective study program for each subject. Could parents please support this program by ensuring that their son/daughter attend school every day of the term.

Mrs Kate Woolaston – Year 12 Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION**Camper Trailer Raffle**

We would like to thank the following businesses for assisting the McCarthy Association's Camper Trailer raffle: ADIG, Capitol Music, Manilla Hardware, 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 Shoes Repairs.

Thank you to Mel and John Nicholson, from Nicho's Home Maintenance, for their generosity and support of our Camper Trailer raffle.

Booksellers Prize

All books sold/part sold and returned by 11 September will be in the running for the Term 3 Booksellers Prize. There is also a prize for the seller of the winning ticket.

Save the Date

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

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday 15 September at 7.15pm. Everyone is most welcome.

EUROPE 2016 EXCURSION**Visit by Academy Travel**

A representative from Academy Travel will be coming to McCarthy on Tuesday 1 September to talk to people who are interested in joining the trip in 2016. The representative will give a presentation starting at 6.00pm in the staff room, answer any questions and also provide options for tours in Berlin, Salzburg, Paris and Venice. Travellers will have a chance to give their preferences on what the group does on these days. We will then discuss the important dates and deadlines. If you have not already given me your name and preferred email address for communications, please send a quick email to: sbarrett@mcCarthy.nsw.edu.au

CAREERS



Last week there were several important meetings at school. On Monday, twelve girls in Years 10-12 attended a workshop on *Women in the Defence Force* which was very well run and full of useful information.



On Wednesday, all Year 12 students received their copy of *UAC 2016* and saw a presentation on applying to university, the importance of a good resume and Trial HSC exam reports for applications (jobs, scholarships, Colleges and Early Entry schemes). Much valuable information can be found in the *Year 12 Careers Book* handed out last term, *Careers Alert* emails and the *JobJump* website to assist students and parents over the coming months. Over the next few weeks there will be many College and University Open Days held on weekends and students are encouraged to attend these, if possible, to provide information and assistance as well as looking at what is on offer. I can be contacted via the school phone number or email careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au

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

TEACHING AND LEARNING



The Trial HSC is over for Year 12 students and some students may feel disheartened. It is important for students to remember that they have a choice. It is just over eight weeks until the first HSC exam in Term 4, and they can choose to give up and wallow or they can choose to learn from their results and move on. Please note that the next five weeks are vital in continuing to prepare for the HSC as many subjects are completing units of work, along with refining and consolidating skills and knowledge. It is imperative that students attend all classes, every day.

If Trial results were poor, the students should ask themselves a few questions:

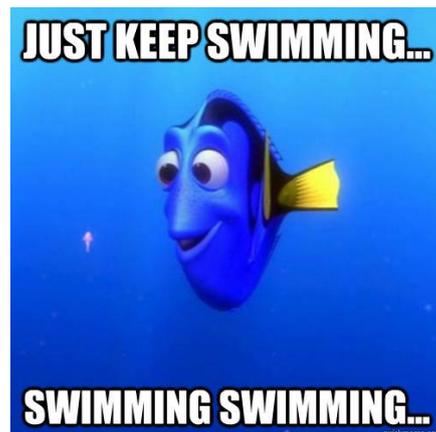
1. Did I complete all classwork and homework prior to the exam?
2. Were my notes organised?
3. Did I understand the work?
4. Did I complete practice questions and obtain feedback?
5. Did I simply study enough?

If the answer was 'no' to any of these questions, the great news is that there is still time to do these things and follow Dory's mantra of persistence.

The major projects for Year 12 Industrial Technology, Textiles and Design and Extension English have been completed, submitted, sent away for marking or awaiting marking. Visual Arts works are due in the next few days. The Speaking component for French Continuers has been completed in Armidale, with French Beginners heading next Saturday. Drama performances are being marked on Monday 24 August and Music performances are marked on Wednesday 10 September.

Although I have focused on Year 12 this newsletter, the five questions can easily be asked by students of any year when they receive a disappointing assessment result.

Ms Suzanne Day – Teaching and Learning Coordinator



**SCIENCE
Robogals Workshop**

On Friday 17 July, over sixty-five girls from Year 7 and 8 participated in the Robogals workshop. This was a two hour workshop run by Engineering student volunteers from The University of Newcastle (led by former McCarthy student, Lesley Wong). Over the three sessions, the girls learnt how to program Lego NXT robots to work its way through a series of challenges. The final challenge required students to finely program their robots for an obstacle course race.



Robogals aims to encourage females to enter the fields of Science, Engineering, Mathematics and IT. The girls that participated certainly were inspired and enjoyed themselves. Special thanks to former McCarthy student, Lesley Wong, and her team of helpers who ran the program for the day.

Mrs Kate Godden – Science teacher





LES MISERABLES EXCURSION

Very recently we took a group of Stage 5 Music and Drama students to Sydney to view the spectacular performance of Les Miserables currently being performed at the Capitol Theatre, Haymarket. Live professional performances are an invaluable tool to experience the breadth and depth of the theatrical world; it is well worth the long day to experience a performance of such calibre.

We were exceptionally proud of our students and the way that they conducted themselves: arriving promptly for a 5.00am start and demonstrating strong theatre etiquette during the production. Several audience members sitting close by, actually went out of their way to comment on how well-behaved and presented our students were.

Thank you to the parents who supported this excursion and to Mrs Suzanne Perferment, who started the ball rolling last year, but was unable to attend.

Ms Felicity Sawtell and Mrs Lisa Lane – Stage 5 Drama and Music teachers

SPORT

Diocesan Athletics

On Friday 14 August the following students competed at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival in Armidale: Abbey Geddes, Adam Wallace, Alexandra Reed, Alexandra Watt, Alice Murphy, Alina Swan, Andrew Myers, Annabelle Pegus, Bella Burr-Clift, Blake Ginman, Brianna Macpherson, Brodie Diamond-Wilkinson, Bronte Ellicott, Caitlin Austin, Caleb Lavu Lavu, Camille Fernando, Daniel Morris, Ella Heeney, Emily Murray, Emma Higgins, Imeshi Dayaratne, Izack Fox, Jake Mitchell, Jessica Clarke, Jim Zell, Joe Doherty, Jye Paterson, Kate Pianta, Kira-Lee Shaw, Lachlan Glasson, Alyssa Jeffery, Libby Painter, Luke Murphy, Lyndell Boschma, Madison Roach, Madison Sharp, Matthew O’Toole, Melanie Young, Nathan Watson, Nicholas Taggart, Owen Bennett, Riley Barling, Samuel Ellicott, Samuel Halcroft, Sophie Heeney, Tameka Frewen and Thomas Croake.

The following students have qualified to compete at NSWCCC Athletics Championships at Homebush on 11 September: Imeshi Dayaratne, Brianna Macpherson, Alice Murphy, Sophie Heeney, Matthew O’Toole, Ella Heeney, Nathan Watson, Samuel Ellicott, Emma Higgins, Kate Pianta, Melanie Young and Owen Bennett. Congratulations to Kate Pianta who won the 14 years Champion at Armidale.

Hockey

Congratulations to Ehren Hazell who was named in the Australian Under 16 Hockey team to tour South Africa next year. Ehren was selected at the recent National Under 16 Championships in Perth where NSW won the silver medal. NSW were undefeated in the preliminary rounds with wins over Western Australia (8 – 1), Tasmania (7 – 1), South Australia (6 – 1), Queensland (5 – 2) and Victoria (6 – 3). Unfortunately, they were defeated by Queensland (2 – 1) in the final, with Ehren scoring NSW’s only goal.



Ekka

Congratulations to Alex Watt who competed at the Brisbane Royal (Ekka) recently winning the 15/16 Paraders class with Goonoo Chuck Kenny K14. Competitors were judged on their handling and not on the actual animal.



McCarthy Club Netball 2015 End of Season

Another season is almost over and the last few games are being played over the coming weeks. I hope all the girls have enjoyed this season and that they will look forward to playing for McCarthy again next year.

Thank you to the committee, coaches and managers for giving up their time to help organise and look after the teams. Without their generosity the club would not be able to continue and the girls could not play. I, personally, have had a rewarding year and have enjoyed my time getting to know the girls. Coaches and managers will be organising end of year functions with each team so I hope you all have a great time.



The **Club AGM will be held on Tuesday 1 September 2015 at 5:30pm** at McCarthy Catholic College. All current committee members will be stepping down and therefore, a new committee needs to be formed.

The daughters’ of some of our current Committee will not be playing netball next year so it is important that parents attend the Annual General Meeting so a new committee can be elected.

If you have any queries in relation to the roles please contact a committee member to discuss. I look forward to meeting you there.

Liz Robinson – President (0488093428)

Committee:

- Vice President: Janine Mills (0427776590)
- Secretary: Lesa Sellars (0407937812)
- Treasurer: Darren McKinnon (0401740054)

