

# Newsletter

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## Dear Parents & Students,

### Prayer

Father, we thank you for all your good gifts to us:

for making this wonderful world;

for calling us to be your holy people.

We thank you for the rain you have given us.

Help us to show our gratitude by sharing ourselves and our gifts with others.

We thank and praise you through Jesus Christ, your Son, in the love and unity of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### Diary Dates

13 Nov:	Association Trivia Night
17 Nov:	Board & Association Meetings
18 Nov:	Year 7 Vaccinations
23 Nov:	Creative Arts Evening
24 Nov:	Orientation Day Year 7 2016
24 Nov:	Info Evening for new students 2016
28 Nov:	"Celebrating the Advent of Love" Armidale
30 Nov:	Year 9 Excursion
30 Nov:	Year 10 Excursion
30 Nov:	Band Workshop – Narrabri
8 Dec:	HSC Music Workshop
9 Dec:	Sport Awards Assembly 9am
10 Dec:	Year 10 Dinner Dance 6pm
14 Dec:	Award Night
16 Dec:	HSC results released

### Reflection

Showing or expressing gratitude to another person is sadly a disappearing practice. The "Catholic Dictionary" defines gratitude as the "virtue by which a person acknowledges, interiorly and exteriorly, gifts received and seeks to make at least some return for the gift." Genuine gratitude which endeavours to express itself in words and deeds has three aspects; "acknowledgment that a gift has been received, appreciation expressed in thankfulness, and ... some return for what has been freely given."

(<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/index.cfm?letter>)

As children of God it is fitting that we not only practice this virtue with one another, we should also remember to thank God who has been and continues to be so generous to us.

## PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Congratulations to everyone who was involved in preparing and delivering a wonderful Graduation Dinner for our departing Year 12 students. Many people have commented about the sophistication and quality of the evening which is testimony to the calibre of the planning and preparation that went into producing such a 'big show'! I particularly identify Mrs Jane Burt and her team of staff and Year 11 students for their tireless work on the day and long into the night.

With the HSC exams now concluded we await with great expectation the final Year 12 results in mid-December. I pay public tribute to the dedication of both the Year 12 students and the teaching staff in focusing on academic excellence and improvement. Well done to all!

I similarly thank the staff and praise the excellent work that has been done in my absence over the past month. The school has forged ahead under the expert guidance of Acting Principal Mrs Sally Sparke who was ably assisted by Mrs Sharon Stuart and Mr Josh Walker in their acting roles. Thank you to all for your support of this wonderful McCarthy community.

### Student Safety

**All drivers please be mindful that the pick-up zone for students is behind the Hall. PLEASE DO NOT PICK UP STUDENTS FROM THE FRONT OF THE OFFICE AFTER SCHOOL.** While I empathise that there was some confusion while the service road was closed during construction, that is not the case now. Similarly, while I appreciate the traffic situation can be frustrating both in the morning and afternoon, mindfulness of student movements has to be paramount. Please take your time and watch out for kids! They are very precious to us all!

### Orientation Day

Transition to secondary school is a very important time for students and parents as they move from one stage of their educational and life journey into another. This can be a simple process for some and a much more challenging one for others. We aim to make the process as simple and trouble-free as possible by providing both an on-site Orientation Day for students and a Parent Information evening on November 24. Attendance details have been communicated to enrolled families. Please contact the Administration office for more details. The Year 7 2016 Stationery Packs are now available for purchase from the office.

### Remembrance Day

Why is this day special to Australians? At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

I was fortunate to attend the Tamworth commemoration at the Town Hall with the 2016 College Captains where we laid a wreath in recognition of the sacrifice paid by so many to provide us with the freedom we cherish today.

**Trivia Night**

At the time of writing I am looking forward to a night of community fun and games at the Annual McCarthy Association Trivia Night being held in the Hall this coming Friday night. Many families and some staff have put together tables and are similarly excited about the prospect of challenging themselves with great games and trivia. Another example of the fine work that the Parent Association does in building community at McCarthy.

May your God go with you.

*Mr Geoff McManus – Principal*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION****Nazareth House**

McCarthy students were invited to participate in Pilgrim activities at Nazareth House on Tuesday 27 October as part of the Sisters' celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. Seven students from Years 10 and 11 participated in a full day's activities which included Mass and Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction in the Chapel, a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Sisters of Nazareth, a Rosary pilgrimage around the grounds of Nazareth House to the small cemetery and a guided tour of the home. The students assisted with serving lunch to the residents. We would like to thank the Sisters for inviting us to help them mark and celebrate this important occasion and look forward to continuing contact and involvement with the Sisters and residents of Nazareth House.

**Whole School Mass**

On 28 October, McCarthy students and staff celebrated the final Whole School Mass for 2015 at St Nicholas' and St Patrick's churches; this celebration was led by Fathers Joe and O'Neill respectively. I would like to extend my gratitude to both priests for accommodating us and leading our Eucharistic celebration for the Feast of Sts Simon and Jude.

**Vinnies**

This week the 2015/16 St Agnes Conference Executive Committee was elected. I am very pleased to announce the following positions;

President:	Gabrielle Vella
Vice-President:	Bronte Ellicott
Secretary:	Prue Davies
Spiritual Advisor:	Phoebe Thornberry
Publicity Advisor:	Madeleine Northey
Social Coordinator:	Jaydon Merrick.

The students will be formally inducted at the 7.00am Mass at St Nicholas' Church on 4 December.

**Celebrating the Advent of Love**

The Catholic Women Connecting Armidale invites women and men of the Armidale Diocese to an "Advent Gathering" at Saints Mary and Joseph Cathedral in Armidale on 28 November. The program begins at 3.30pm with afternoon tea and concludes with Mass, dinner and reflection by Bishop Kennedy. RSVP by 23 November to [cwcarmidale2015@gmail.com](mailto:cwcarmidale2015@gmail.com)

*Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator*

**PASTORAL CARE****Vaccinations – Year 7**

Vaccinations will be held on Wednesday 18 November for all Year 7 students. Could parents please make sure students have a good breakfast, and wear their sports uniform.

*Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator*

**PARENT INFORMATION****Trivia Night**

Our Trivia Night is on Friday 13 November (tomorrow). Please come dressed in your most wicked outfit for "Freaky Friday"! If anyone can make a donation (prize) to the Trivia Night it would be much appreciated. All donations can be left at the office.

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is Tuesday 17 November at 7.15pm. Everyone is most welcome.

**CAREERS NEWS**

The last two weeks I have been:

- seeing Year 11 students moving into their HSC year and making changes to their pattern of study for the HSC
- meeting Year 10 boys who are looking at gaining apprenticeships at the end of this year
- sending emails to Year 12 students about new courses, scholarships and job opportunities
- attending meetings with other Careers Advisers to learn about new programs that will be available to our students and other matters
- organising RSA and RCG courses for Year 12 students.

This is the time of year when Careers Advisers plan programs and prepare for what information they will provide to students the following year, and I am excited by some of the new ventures, programs and opportunities that will be on offer in 2016.

**Job Hunting**

This is also the time when many local employers are looking for school leavers to enter the local job market. Some jobs are being advertised in The Northern Daily Leader as well as in online job sites like **Indeed** <http://au.indeed.com/> where you can customise

your search by putting in postcode and type of jobs as well as subscribing to get regular emails of potential jobs as they become available. Other jobs are being brought to my attention by employers contacting the school with details of gap year and full-time job opportunities.

I urge all school leavers looking for jobs to keep their eyes and ears open and to tell as many people as possible that they are looking for a job because word of mouth and the "hidden job market" is how many people will find jobs. Statistically speaking, up to 75-80% of job vacancies are never advertised. These unadvertised jobs are called "the hidden job market" so if students are only using online job listings or newspapers to look for work, they are missing out on many opportunities.

### Resumes/Cover Letters/Interviews

As employers are fond of saying: "You only have one chance to make a good first impression", so students should ensure their cover letters and resumes are the best they can possibly be to stand out for all the right reasons to get an interview. Making a great impression at an interview is very, very important. Lots of tips, suggestions and advice is available and I have spent time recently proof reading resumes and suggesting some changes to assist students.

### Year 12 2015

Many students who applied for Early Entry programs to university will shortly be finding out if they have been successful. Some very important advice to these students and their parents is:

- check emails and postal mail regularly
- ensure Early Entry offers received becomes **a valid offer** by following instructions regarding UAC or directly to the university if this applies
- keep documentation safe
- adhere to any deadlines to accept/reject/defer offers
- to remember it is possible to receive more than one offer ie students may be able to receive an offer in different rounds
- know where BOSTES and UAC PINs are to be able to check HSC results and ATAR
- record these important dates in students' phone/diary/calendar:
  - Wednesday 16 December – HSC results
  - Thursday 17 December – ATARs released
  - Friday 18 December – breakfast BBQ at McCarthy for Year 12 students

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

### GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 28 October McCarthy had twelve student leaders attend the GRIP student leadership conference held at the Tamworth Town Hall.

Students enjoyed a high energy, interactive day. They participated in sessions that will help them to develop new skills, new perspectives and new ideas for their time as student leaders at McCarthy Catholic College.

The students performed as a cohesive group and were a credit to our school.

Mrs Michelle Gale – Year 11 Coordinator



### LANGUAGES

Congratulations to Year 10 French students: Faith Melvey, Alexandra Reed, Emerson Ring, Claire Salter, Jasmine Tan, Molly Trehay and Jeffrey Wong. Earlier this year, they participated in a short movie making competition organised by the Alliance française in Sydney. The results came out last Friday. They won the first prize! They had chosen to do a 'psychological-horror'. Their short movie explores the themes of bullying, anxiety, mental health issues and the importance of not being a bystander. Bravo Year 10!

Mrs Oriane Monet – Language teacher

## SPORT

### Indoor Hockey

Congratulations to Billie Mitchell, Lucy Frame and Holly Littlejohns on their success at the recent U13s NSW Indoor Championships held on the Central Coast. The McCarthy contingent were an integral part of the team who were declared joint winners of the NSW Championships in A Division after a draw with Lithgow in the final. Locked at 1 all at the end of normal time, the teams could not be separated after two periods of extra time and drop off.

Tamworth played six games over the weekend and were the only undefeated team in A division at the completion of the tournament. After a number of outstanding performances over the weekend, Billie was named in the U13 NSW team to compete at the National Indoor Championships in January.



### Cricket

James Austin travelled to Coffs Harbour on 2 November to trial for selection in the 15 years boys' Cricket Northern Regional Team. James was selected and will travel to Auburn on 16 and 17 November for selection trials in the NSWCCC team. As well as the Northern region team, there were two teams chosen from the Metropolitan and one from the Southern region.

# McCarthy Association - FUN RAISER

## You are invited to attend

- Date** Friday 13 November 2015
- Time** 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
- Venue** McCarthy Catholic College Hall
- Who** Over 18s only
- Bonus** Only \$10 per head (payable on the night)
- Bring** Your gold coins, own drinks, nibbles



**Best dressed table/team**  
(Come dressed in your most wicked outfit for Freaky Friday!)  
**Winning trivia team**

Spot prizes will be awarded throughout the night

To register please choose an option below

1. Phone the school with your table name on 6761 0800
  2. Email [admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)
  3. Return the slip below to the office
- by Monday 9 November 2015**

**Register Your Table of 8 People NOW**

### McCarthy Trivia Night Friday 13 November 2015

**Please register a table of 8 for the following team.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't have a table of 8 but would like to come, please register and let the girls know that you don't have a full table. We will put together a table for you.