

# Newsletter

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**Dear Parents & Students,**

## Prayer

Dear Lord

We pray this week for openness to the season of Advent.

Give us a special sensitivity of heart to the beauty of the Christmas stories.

Lead us to contemplate the overwhelming message of Gabriel, the 'yes' of Mary and the serving of Elizabeth.

Help us to respond, like Mary, with a great generosity in these closing weeks of the year to all who cross our path.

Give us the joy of Mary in the knowledge that we too are your highly favoured ones.

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

## PRINCIPAL MATTERS

As this is the final newsletter for 2015, I take the opportunity to thank all members of our community for supporting McCarthy Catholic College this year. From the classroom to the sporting fields and courts, to the selling of tickets or donating time and money to serve those in need, the myriad of events and opportunities to support our young people's journey to wholeness in a Catholic community is noted, appreciated and valued. Thank you for the small things that you do that when put together make this school community a great place.

This aspect of our community resonated very deeply when I attended the Canteen Volunteers Christmas party last week. Listening to these wonderful Mums, Grandmas, and staff reminisce over their years of preparing and serving healthy food for our (mostly) polite yet always hungry young people, was energising and truly representative of the community spirit in this place. Some of these ladies have not had children at the school for years but they still want to make a contribution which is indicative of the calibre of people at McCarthy. Thank you ladies!

Similarly, I identify the dedication of the Board members and the McCarthy Association. While not all were able to attend the breakup dinner last week, I did speak that night of the wonderful spirit of stewardship that lives in these service groups. The idea that the decisions made and fundraising undertaken will not only benefit the sons and daughters of the current members but will continue to benefit and support the education of students not even enrolled at the school yet is inspiring. Thank you to the current members of the Board and Parent Association and please consider joining these groups in 2016. AGMs will be held in March next year and both groups are always looking for new people to join.

## Awards Night

The major event of the academic calendar will be held on Monday 14 December. The purpose of such a ceremony is to showcase the academic calibre of the students and their collective dedication to improvement and excellence. While not all families are able to attend, I trust that the message from such a ceremony is one of ongoing commitment to enhanced learning gain by our talented teaching staff. Their dedication and support of our students is something that should never be taken for granted. As Principal, I thank God every day for our staff and their willingness and commitment to improving themselves and their teaching so that our students can achieve well.

## Staffing

We welcome Mrs Jo McHugh to our permanent staff from 2016 as she takes on a key role as the college's Agriculture teacher. I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Inga Potter as the Food Technology Assistant.

## Pastoral Interventions

The modern pressures on teenagers are certainly not the same as we may have faced when we were young. So, at the instigation of Student Management Coordinator Mrs Sharon Stuart, we developed an intervention program that was conducted last Friday for our Year 7 students. Each of the workshops was targeted at the tough topics that modern teenagers can find challenging and confronting. Coping strategies to deal with Cyberbullying, Sexting, Digital reputation and Social Media were just some of the topics presented and discussed with the students. If parents feel that these types of topics are also difficult to handle at home please do not feel as though you need to operate in isolation. Contact our counsellors or check out the government website - <https://esafety.gov.au/> which has a wealth of child-friendly and parent resources.

## Sports Awards Assembly

Congratulations to all of the award winners from the Sports Awards Assembly held on Wednesday. The ceremony was an excellent way to finish the sporting year and I offer sincere thanks to Mr Matt Feltrin and the team of generous coaches and volunteers who support our students both on and off the sporting field. We were also quite fortunate to be entertained by Guest Speaker - Mr Michael Crossland and his observations on how sport can contribute to positive life lessons.

## Diary Dates

10 Dec:	Year 10 Dinner Dance 6pm
14 Dec:	Award Night
16 Dec:	HSC results released
16 Dec:	Last day for students
17 Dec:	Pupil Free Day
18 Dec:	Pupil Free Day
18 Dec:	Year 12 BBQ breakfast
18 Dec:	Term 4 concludes
27 Jan:	Term 1 commences for staff
28 Jan:	Years 7, 11 and new students commence
29 Jan:	All students return

**Return to School 2016**

The Administration Office opens and teaching staff return for professional development on Wednesday 27 January 2016. Years 7 and 11 and new students participate in Induction Day on Thursday 28 January while the whole school (Years 7 to 12) will begin classes on Friday 29 January.

Finally, thank you for your overwhelmingly positive support for me in my first year at McCarthy. The transition has been a positive and life-giving experience due to the welcoming and generous spirit that has been offered to me and my family. May the peace and joy of the Christmas season bring great love and happiness to your whole family. Please travel safe over the holidays and we look forward to a wonderful 2016 together.

May your God go with you.

*Mr Geoff McManus – Principal*

**PASTORAL CARE****Condolences**

Our thoughts and prayers go to Angus and Darcy Doyle and family following the passing of their grandmother.

*Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator*

**Year 8 Achiever Awards**

Congratulations to the forty-two Year 8 students who received an Achiever Award Certificate in 2015.

Jonathon Abra, Sophia Anderson, Lyndell Boschma, Edward George, Julia Hannaford, Lauren Hutchinson, Abigail Kelly, Diaz Martyn, Augustine Mundele-Turner, Alana Noonan, Miah O'Sullivan, Laura Robertson, Gian Baga, Adam Cameron, Josie Chick, Sebastian Diss, Briannah Donaldson, Hannah Dowden, Ellie Dunn, Imogen Easton, Calvin Farmilo, Angelina Grogan, Erin Groth, Alexander Hinchey, Kate Lane, Briony Littlejohns, Sara Lui, Cameron Martin, Sophie Moes, Madeline Neville, Emily Nicholson, Connor Noonan, Lily O'Connor-Bourke, Libby Painter, Sarah Pannowitz, Isabella Parker, Nieve Styman, Ryan Thompson, Chelsea Todd, Nathan Watson, Hollee Woodgate, Brianna Zwolsman.

Achiever Awards recognise students who have received at least five Merit certificates throughout the year from at least five different teachers. One of these Merit Certificates must be for service to the school. Achiever Certificates are awarded in June and October of each year. Left: A photo of the recipients for October.

*Mr Andrew Davy – Year 8 Coordinator*

**PARENT INFORMATION****Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 7.15pm. Everyone is most welcome.

2015 has been a very busy and rewarding year for the Association.

We have had the Wine and Cheese Night, pie and mango drives and a Trivia Night.

Thanks you to everyone for your valuable support of these annual social and fundraising events.

We also had a raffle with the prize being a camper trailer. Thank you to Louise Henry and everyone who helped/sold/bought tickets.

With your valuable support we can continue to raise funds which go into the school for improvements and extra resources for your children.

From the McCarthy Parent Association, we wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**LIBRARY**

Our library displays are going further afield and being noticed by many people beyond our school community.

Library Assistant Mrs Janet Nolan with the Broaden Your Horizons display

**CAREERS NEWS**

The wait is almost over for our Year 12 class of 2015. These are the significant dates:

Wednesday 16 December: HSC results released. (BOSTES PIN needed to access)

Thursday 17 December: ATARs released. (UAC PIN needed to access)

Friday 18 December: Year 12 Breakfast BBQ on the Terrace near the Canteen from 7.00am.

Students will receive their HSC results and ATARs via SMS, email or logging into the sites or can wait for the notification in the mail.

### HSC Results

The majority of HSC students across the state will receive a Band 4 in each subject. Whether their mark for a subject is in the low 70s or the high 70s will have a big impact on their ATAR. You will need to be receiving Band 4s and above in all or most subjects to get an ATAR high enough to get into university courses with an ATAR cut-off. See below about bonus points.

### ATARs and Bonus Points to Boost Selection Rank

Regarding ATARs, students can change preferences after receiving their ATAR.

I will email Year 12 students a pdf file of ALL the HSC bonus points they are eligible to receive once they know their HSC results. Students can then factor out how much their selection rank will be boosted at all universities in NSW/ACT and for which courses they will apply. Use this information when changing preferences. Please look out for this in an upcoming Careers Alert email.

### University Offers

Please follow instructions and keep all letters/documentation etc in a safe place, especially if deferring. Remember that it is possible to receive and accept more than one offer across the various rounds of offers.

### ATARs: Higher or Lower Than Expected? Seek Advice

Remember that the school does not receive notification of your ATAR. If students are very disappointed, with a lower than hoped for ATAR which may put university plans at risk, please contact me. I cannot help if I am not aware.

In previous years I have had phone calls and emails from both students and their parents about low ATARs. Depending on what students want to do and where they want to go, there are always options and pathways that I can share. In these situations, it may take longer to reach the goal, but options and pathways exist.

Please contact me via the school number (67610800) or my email address if needing advice: [careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careers@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)

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

### MATHEMATICS

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the following students on their achievements in Mathematics competitions this year. I also commend all of the students who participated in the competitions. The competitions provide students with the opportunity to use their skills and understanding in Mathematics, their problem solving skills and their logical reasoning.

**Year 7:** Imeshi Dayaratne: Distinction (ICAS); Credit (Australian Mathematics Competition), Eden Filicietti: Credit (ICAS), Thomas Macpherson: Credit (ICAS), Benjamin Wallace: Credit (ICAS), John Wong: Credit (ICAS).

**Year 8:** Lauren Hutchinson: Credit (ICAS), Briony Littlejohns: Credit (ICAS), Sara Lui: Credit (ICAS), Madeline Neville: Credit (ICAS).

**Year 9:** Christopher Macpherson: Credit (ICAS), Kate Pianta: Credit (ICAS).

**Year 10:** Harper Galvin: Credit (ICAS), Amanda Leone: Credit (ICAS); Credit (Australian Mathematics Competition), Karie Mayman: Credit (ICAS).

**Year 11:** Chang Goh: Distinction (ICAS), Douglas Pianta: Distinction (ICAS); Credit (Australian Mathematics Competition).

*Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator*

### BAND CAMP

The McCarthy band students had a very successful 3 day camp at Narrabri last week.

Twenty students from Years 7-11 went with Mrs Lane and Mr Virgen and played music with one hundred other Music students from the region. They learnt many new skills from the expert tutors that will help the McCarthy Band to continue to improve.

A highlight was the public concert on Tuesday night.

Congratulations to all the students for their diligence, cooperation and excellent McCarthy behaviour. Special mention to Hayden Davy and Jack Lange for their student leadership attributes.



*Mrs Lisa Lane – Band Coordinator*

### LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR



Four Year 11 students have begun their journey with the Lions Youth of the Year competition: Gabrielle Vella, Matthew Letton, Bronte Ellicott and Phoebe Thornberry. These students are to be congratulated on their efforts and for representing McCarthy Catholic College with maturity, poise and diligence. We wish them luck as they progress to the next round which will be in April next year.



"Lions Youth of the Year was a great opportunity which enabled me to step out of my comfort zone and develop skills which will assist me in later life. The organisers and Lions Club members were very helpful and so encouraging, which made the experience very enjoyable. I am looking forward to progressing to the next level and would encourage everyone to give it a go" **Bronte Ellicott – overall winner at South Tamworth Lions Club.**



"During my interview I was asked a variety of different questions and the three judges picked apart my application, further investigating community involvement and past achievements. The judges then asked four main questions involving issues within the community and within Australia including topics of: homelessness/asylum seekers, the voting/drinking age, Agriculture and mining, and role models.

My public speaking night involved me answering two impromptu questions: "Boxing Day sales: good, bad or just plain wrong?" and "Advantages and disadvantages of the Burqa". After our impromptu speeches, we were required to say a five minute prepared speech, mine being "Why following the trend is overrated". **Gabrielle Vella – Public speaking winner and overall winner at Peel Valley Lions Club.**

*Mrs Michelle Gale – Year 11 Coordinator*

## SPORT

### Sports' Awards Assembly

The Annual Sports Awards Assembly was held in the College hall on Wednesday 9 December. This assembly allows us to recognise the sporting achievements of students in front of their peers, as well as all those volunteers who help with Sport at McCarthy. We were lucky enough to have a special guest speaker, Mr Michael Crossland, address the College on the day. Michael's key message was that you can make a difference in other people's lives no matter what personal adversities confront you. The greatest gift you can give is to make somebody else's dream come true. More information about Michael can be found at: [www.michaelcrossland.com](http://www.michaelcrossland.com)  
The 2015 Sports' Awards recipients were as follows:

#### College Awards

##### Male and Female Sports Person of the Year Awards

Male – Samuel Ellicott

Female – Ella Heeney

##### All Rounder Awards

Male – Edward George

Female – Julia Hannaford

##### College Gold Award

###### 7/8 Boys' Basketball

Sam Ellicott, Izack Fuller, Cooper Kelly, Tom Lange, Caleb Lavu Lavu, Brock McMahon, David Murrie, Tom Sheppard, Jared Sing and Nathan Watson.

##### Coach of the Year

Paul Hobson – coach of the 7/8 Boys' Basketball team

##### Outstanding Achievement Award

Nicholas Penrose and Anna Crisp

##### Outstanding Performance Award

Mikaela Short – Swimming

##### NSWCCC Blues and Half Blues

(n.b. These students also received a College Blue Award)

###### Team Half Blues

###### Under 16 Girls' Hockey

Grace Allan, Isabelle Ambrose, Claire Annis-Brown, Olivia Climpson, Lucy Frame, Millah Green, Ashleigh Horniman, Kate Lane, Sophie Littlejohns, Libbi Maher, Billie Mitchell, Beth Tankard, Katie Wood

###### Open Girls' Hockey

Olivia Dillon, Georgia Achurch, Natasha Achurch, Hannah Backhouse, Heidi Backhouse, Eliza Bennett, Jessica Clarke, Michelle Coates, Kate Cruickshank, Prue Davies, Sarah Pannowitz, Phoebe Thornberry, Emmalene Tinson.

###### 7/8 Boys' Basketball

Sam Ellicott, Izack Fuller, Cooper Kelly, Tom Lange, Caleb Lavu Lavu, Brock McMahon, David Murrie, Tom Sheppard, Jared Sing and Nathan Watson.

##### Individual Half Blues

Max Chillingworth – Basketball

Chloe Coe – Touch

Jayden Gimbergh – Water Polo, Swimming

Ella Heeney – Triathlon

Sophie Heeney – Triathlon, Cross Country

Brodii Ingram – Touch

Jye Paterson – Cricket

Abby Rae – Water polo

Toby Whale - Cricket

**Individual Blues**

Samuel Ellicott – Athletics  
 Ella Heeney – Cross Country, Athletics  
 Sophie Heeney - Triathlon  
 Mikaela Short – Swimming

**College Half Blue**

James Austin – Cricket (Northern CCC team)

**Pierre de Coubertin Award**

Sophie Heeney

We also presented the College with the 2016 Sports House Captains:

Chisholm: Bronte Ellicott and Harry Mills  
 Dominic: Olivia Miller and Hayden Davy  
 Edmund Rice: Tahnee Reid and Matthew Letton  
 MacKillop: Abby Rae and Aaron Ritchie

On behalf of the College, I would like to congratulate all our recipients, and look forward to continued success in 2016.

*Mr Matt Feltrin – Sports Coordinator*

**School Sport Australia’s 2015 Pacific School Games - Adelaide**

Congratulations to Mikaela Short who recently competed against twelve nations at the 2015 Pacific School Games in Adelaide.

Her outstanding results were as follows:

- Gold Medal - 4 x 100m Medley Relay
- Silver Medal - 50m Butterfly
- Bronze Medal - 100m Butterfly
- Bronze Medal - 50m Backstroke
- Bronze Medal - 100m Backstroke
- Bronze Medal - 4 x 50m 100m Freestyle Relay
- Bronze Medal - 4 x 50m Medley Relay

She won seven medals from nine events entered.



**Berg Shield Cricket**

The McCarthy Years 7, 8 and 9 team played St Philomena's, Moree in the Berg Shield Cricket competition on Wednesday 25 November. McCarthy were bowled out for 111 with Toby Whale top scoring (55), including 3 sixes. In reply, St Philomena's were 3/10 at one stage after James Austin took 3 quick wickets. They passed McCarthy's score, winning the match by 7 wickets. St Philomena's now progress to the next round of the knockout competition.

The McCarthy boys played with excellent sportsmanship and enthusiasm on the day. Thanks to Mr Geoff Denton for umpiring on the day.

Team: Luke Maher, Nicholas Pannowitz, Daniel Stuart, James Austin, Edward George, Cassidy Hunter, Adam Challens, Zac Clark, Jesse Collins, Zebediah Douglas and Toby Whale.

*Mr Tim Godden*

**McCarthy Basketball 2015**

McCarthy Basketball, once again, had a successful year during 2015, competing strongly in the local Tamworth Basketball Secondary School competitions. The McCarthy Basketball teams have been supported strongly within the school by Mrs Pat Hobson and Mr Matt Feltrin. Thank you to the strong contingent of dedicated students, ex-students and parents who have ensured that the teams have been well managed by organising and coaching the teams. A special note to Cooper Kelly for not only helping to coach the McCarthy Pistons in the 7/8 competition but guiding them to winning their grand final in his first attempt at coaching.

**Winter Competition (Terms 1 and 2)**

McCarthy was represented by fifteen teams in the winter competition with all teams reaching the semi-finals, nine teams making the grand final and seven teams winning their respective competition.

7/8 Girls'	McCarthy Rubies	Semi-Finalists
	McCarthy Sapphires	Winners
	McCarthy Diamonds	Semi-Finalists
	McCarthy Opals	Semi-Finalists
7/8 Boys'	McCarthy Mavericks	Winners
	McCarthy Bullets	Semi-Finalists
	McCarthy Spurs	Semi-Finalists
	McCarthy Pistons	Winners
	McCarthy Rockets	Grand Finalists
9/10 Girls'	McCarthy Emeralds	Grand Finalists
	McCarthy Pearls	Winners

9/10 Boys'	McCarthy Knicks McCarthy Hornets	Winners Semi-Finalists
11/12 Boys'	McCarthy Thunder McCarthy Heat	Winners Winners

**Summer Competition (Terms 3 and 4)**

McCarthy was represented by nine teams in the winter competition with all teams reaching the semi-finals, five teams making the grand final and three winning their respective competition.

7/8 Girls'	McCarthy Rubies McCarthy Sapphires McCarthy Diamonds	Winners Grand Finalists Semi-Finalists
7/8 Boys'	McCarthy Mavericks McCarthy Pistons McCarthy Rockets	Semi-Finalists (in 9/10 competition) Winners Semi-Finalists
9/10 Girls'	McCarthy Emeralds	Grand Finalists
9/10 Boys'	McCarthy Knicks	Semi-Finalists (in 11/12 competition)
11/12 Boys'	McCarthy Heat	Winners

*Mr Paul Hobson*

**Water Polo**

Congratulations to the students who competed in the Tamworth Representative sides at the regional water polo competition held in Tamworth earlier this term.

Jorja Irwin, Harriet Lyden, Billie Mitchell and Bianca Watson won the Under 14s division. The girls also competed in the 16s division winning every game except against the Tamworth Under 16s Representative team.

Gabrielle Joice and Dakota Skewes were part of the Under 16s Tamworth side who also won their division, coming away undefeated. Well done to all the girls.

*Miss Erin Cannon*

*Christmas Mass Times*

*St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth*

**St Nicholas Church**

Thursday 24	Children's Mass	7.00pm
Thursday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	9.00pm
Thursday 24	Midnight Mass	
Friday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
No Evening Mass on Christmas Day		

**St Mary's Church**

Wednesday 25	Christmas Mass	7.30am
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*St Michael's Catholic Community Church*

**Kootingal**

Thursday 24	Christmas Eve Mass	6.30pm
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**Dungowan**

Friday 25	Christmas Mass	8.30am
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**Nundle**

Friday 25	Christmas Mass	10.00am
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*St Patrick's Parish West Tamworth*

Thursday 24	Children's Mass	5.30pm
Thursday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Friday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am

*St Edward's Parish South Tamworth*

**Mary Help of Christians**

Thursday 24	Children's Mass	6.30pm
Thursday 24	Filipino Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Thursday 24	Midnight Mass	
Friday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am
No Evening Mass Christmas Day		

*St Brigid's Parish Quirindi*

**Quirindi**

Thursday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
Friday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am

**Willow Tree**

Friday 25	Christmas Mass	8.00am
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*St Michael's Parish Manilla*

**Attunga**

Thursday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
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**Manilla**

Friday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
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