

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

Lord Jesus,
You came among us as teacher,
to reveal the Father's endless love and mercy.
Our Catholic schools continue to give witness to your compassion and wisdom,
seeking always to ensure that we are all welcome no matter who we are.
May our catholic schools continue to be places of belonging and sources of
hope and enthusiasm for our young people and their families.
May the work of our Catholic schools always be guided by the inspiration of
your Spirit.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. At McCarthy we will formally mark this national celebration at our weekly assembly in our prayer. Catholic Schools Week is an important opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for Catholic schools and Catholic education throughout Australia, and especially for our own school, McCarthy Catholic College. It is time to give thanks for the wonderful learning and teaching that takes place each day in every classroom. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2016 is 'I belong. You belong. We belong.' All of us at McCarthy, students, teachers and parents are privileged to belong to a strong community of faith that continues to shape our learning and teaching. In our Catholic schools, we share in God's great story. We grow in communion with God and with one another.

Diary Dates

4 March: HSC Textiles Excursion - Sydney
7 March: Catholic Schools' Week
7 March: Year 7 Vaccinations
8 March: Year 11 Property Planning Day
10 March: Diocesan Swimming Carnival – Moree
10 March: HSC Music Workshop
12 March: Open Day
15 March: Board & Association AGMs
16 March: John Coutis Presentation
16 March: Diocesan U15 Rugby League
16 March: Year 9/10 Touch Carnival
22 March: Year 7/8 Science & Engineering Challenge
23 March: Year 9/10 Science & Engineering Challenge
25 March: Good Friday
28 March: Easter Monday
29 March: Warramalaya Retreat
31 March: Diocesan Touch – Inverell
8 April: 2017 Enrolment Applications Close

PRINCIPAL MATTERS



In this time of Lent the key focus as a Catholic is on deepening our relationship with Jesus. To do so we need to heed the challenging message of Jesus to stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalised of our community. To serve their needs and not our own. At McCarthy we strive year round to identify those in need and offer opportunities for our students to serve the poor. In many cases the need is not identified by the adults in the community, but rather the students themselves. Two fine student examples were presented at Assembly last week. Lauren Challens (Year 12 - 2015) was presented with an Environmental Achievement Award by John Tucker from Landcare for her outstanding contribution in the local Tamworth community in facilitating a number of environmental initiatives. Similarly, Gabrielle Vella (Year 12 - 2016) is to be commended for raising over \$1400 for CanTeen and cancer research by coordinating Bandana Day in late October 2015. We are very proud of these two young women and their willingness to serve our community.



In a similar vein, we were also treated to a moving visual presentation from Mrs Cate Allen and Mrs Kate Woolaston who attended the Catholic Mission immersion experience to Kiribati in December last year with a number of our Year 12 graduates. As an island that is experiencing the reality of global warming with rising sea levels and its inhabitants living in endemic poverty, the immersion group was exposed to the lived experience of Jesus' message. As witnesses Mrs Allen and Mrs Woolaston spoke of the genuine happiness of the locals and their generosity of spirit that was both humbling and life-changing for the participants. While opportunities like this are rare and come at a significant cost, the value that comes from contributing in a genuine sense to that isolated community is immeasurable.

2015 Dux of the College

The 2015 Dux of the College, Lauren McRae, was also presented with her award recently. While Lauren herself was absent from the assembly as she had to attend orientation week at the University of Sydney, she sent through a written script to be read out to the 2016 student cohort. The essence of Lauren's message to her peers was not too dissimilar an aspiration to that of many successful people. That is work hard and build good relationships with your teachers. Lauren hopes to take that attitude forward and achieve even greater success as she begins her Bachelor of Science (Advanced) course.

McCarthy Association Wine & Cheese Night and Tour of New Building

The Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre is all but finished and we should be moving in early next week. We now extend an attractive dual offer to current parents and families to join the McCarthy Parent Association for a Wine and Cheese night as well as undertake a tour of the new facility on Monday March 14. The tours will be conducted at 6.30pm followed by a welcome drink and

nibbles from our wonderful parents outside on the forecourt (thereby avoiding damage to the new carpet!). The Association run this welcome event annually to encourage parents to join the Association and support current and future fundraising ventures as well as mingle with like-minded McCarthy families at the Association social events. Please feel very welcome.

Thank You

Our current school cleaners have decided to conclude their contract with the College. We wish Gary and Deb Robinson all the best for the future and sincerely thank them for the commitment and dedication to maintaining the classrooms and bathroom facilities to a quality standard.

Board and Parents Association Annual General Meetings – March 15

The Annual General Meeting for the Board (5.30pm) and Parents Association (7.00pm) will be held on Tuesday March 15. I strongly encourage current members to stand for office bearer positions as they become available this month. The enormous commitment that the current executive have dedicated to their roles is to be commended. As a community McCarthy Catholic College we are indebted to the wisdom and hard work of current members. Please feel welcome to attend the Parents Association Meeting at 7.00pm in the staffroom. If you are interested in Board membership please contact the College to access contact details for the Board Chair – Mr Adam Green.

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2017 close April 8 2016

McCarthy Catholic College extends an invitation for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 in 2017. The only round of Year 7 applications for this year will close on Friday 8 April. **Fully completed application forms** and the **\$100 application fee** need to be lodged at the College on or before **Friday 8 April**. Mrs Libby Molony will visit the Catholic primary schools over the next few weeks and issue Year 6 students with an enrolment package. Interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2. **Open Day** will be held on **Saturday 12 March** from 10.00am until 1.00pm.

Contact the office on 6761 0800 for an application pack and/or more information.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This week Mr Bruce Stewart as the Diocesan Caritas representative spoke at Assembly and reminded the school community of the places in the world where Caritas is 'doing good'. He thanked the school for its past contributions to Caritas and encouraged us to continue this Lenten observance. I am very pleased to report that to date we have donated \$2000 to Caritas; and that this has primarily come through straight donations during Mentor Group each morning.

Sisters of St Joseph

Saturday 19 March 2016 is the Feast of St Joseph. On this day the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate 150 years since their foundation in Penola South Australia in 1866 as a result of the dream of Mary MacKillop and Fr Tenison Woods. The Sisters invite you to join with them in giving thanks to God for the countless blessings that have come to Australia and beyond as a result of the ministry of the Sisters in small country places and larger cities.

Mass will be celebrated in a number of centres throughout NSW on this Feast of St Joseph. Priests and Religious, Associates, family, friends, ex-students and current students of the Sisters are invited to join the Sisters in the celebration of Mass followed by refreshments.

Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick's Church, West Tamworth at 11.00am on Wednesday 13 April. RSVP ph: 46771477 or 0418674452 or email julie.simpson@sosj.org.au

Mrs Cate Allen – Religious Education Coordinator

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It is fitting during this Lenten period that recent school assemblies have highlighted service to others. Service to other is one of the foundations of our school mission. Mrs Cate Allen and Mrs Kate Woolaston shared their Kirabati experience; Mr Bruce Stewart spoke of the work of Caritas and asked that we continue to support the important work they do; and Mr John Tucker made a presentation to ex-student Lauren Challens for her service to the local community. All students have the opportunity to serve others - by contributing to Caritas and getting involved in the many fundraising initiatives; by joining one of our service groups, for example Vinnies or the Environmental Council; or by stepping up when a call is made for volunteers.

I congratulate the recently announced SLC representatives for Years 8-11. These students will have the opportunity to work with the Year 12 SLC group to serve the McCarthy student body and ensure a voice for all.

Coles passes are now required for those students who wish to visit Coles after school and prior to catching a bus home. Any student who would like a pass must provide a parental permission note, addressed to Mr McManus, granting permission for this to occur.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

PASTORAL CARE

Welcome

We welcome Allana Carrick (Year 8) and her family to the McCarthy community.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to Kira-Lee Shaw and her family following the passing of her grandfather and to Mrs Jenny Ayres and her family following the passing of her father.

Surviving Your Adolescents

McCarthy is hosting a free Surviving Your Adolescents course on Wednesday 27 April at 5.30pm. Learn how to manage and let go of your 11-22 year old. Please note: Registration is essential.

The course covers:

- What is normal adolescent behaviour
- How to manage teen risk-taking
- The Four Cardinal Sins (what not to do)
- The relationship between parent-teen communication and adolescent safety
- The four ways to improve your relationship
- What role to take: observer, advisor, negotiator, director
- How to respond to emotional blackmail.

For more information and to register contact the Family Relationship Centre through Centacare NENW ph: 1800372826 or 67387200.

Vaccinations

The first of the 2016 vaccinations will take place on 7 March for Year 7 students only.

- Varicella vaccine (chicken pox) one dose;
- dTpa vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis – whooping cough) one dose;
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) first dose of a 3-dose schedule.

It would be appreciated if you could assist us by ensuring your child wears sports uniform, has breakfast and has water.

Mr McManus 'Bowled Over'



As a fundraising initiative, Year 9 conducted a cricket event in the hall to raise money for Caritas at lunch on Thursday February 25. Year 7, 8 and 9 students were invited to bowl to staff members and try and 'knock' them over. For every wicket they took they received an icy pole, handy considering the hot temperatures of late, and the staff member who was given out would donate \$1 to Caritas.

\$72.00 was raised during the 30 minutes of 'mayhem' with Year 7, 8 and 9 students lining up to have a bowl at the staff who padded up. There was some great talent unearthed in the bowling department. Additionally, there will be some sore staff scampering back to retirement!

It could be seen from the number of students that turned up and the smiles on their faces, they had a great time and it would not have been possible without the

involvement and generosity of the following staff: Mr McManus, Mrs Monro, Mr Williams, Mrs McHugh, Mr Adams, Mrs Bushell, Mr Fahey, Mr Feltrin, Mr Rindo and Mr Merrick. Year 9 recorders: Briannah Donaldson, Josie Chick, Ben Kelly, Madeleine Bennett, Briony Littlejohns and Mollie Green.



Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March. We look forward to seeing you for a fun filled evening of camaraderie and friendship in parenting. Please join us at 7.00pm in the school staffroom (located at the end of the administration block). All positions are declared vacant.

Wine and Cheese Night

You are invited to attend the McCarthy Association Wine and Cheese Night on Monday 14 March at 6.30pm. Everyone is most welcome to attend.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Learning is an active process. Many students at McCarthy demonstrate they are actively involved in their learning when they go to extracurricular activities such as Study Club or Calculus Club. Active learners borrow a book to read or complete past papers to prepare themselves for the test. A fantastic way for students to challenge themselves is to sit for an ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) test which is an independent, skills-based assessment program that recognises and rewards student achievement. Letters have been given to students for further information, so please encourage your child to undertake an ICAS test and note the payment and due dates to enter. Every child receives a certificate and it is a wonderful way to encourage your child to participate and enjoy learning.

Year 8 get a special mention this week for their outstanding efforts throughout their subjects, as they work through our Literacy Skills Project across all Key Learning Area's. This initiative has been implemented to specifically address writing. The project teaches students the twelve, proven 'key skills' to elevating written responses. Many a 'light bulb moment' has happened in classrooms and from all anecdotes the students are excited to learn how to improve their writing and are mastering these skills very quickly. They have been very enthusiastic. Keep up the great work Year 8.

Mrs Raelene Maxworthy – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Learn to fly - Women of Aviation Week Sunday 13 March

The event hosted by the Tamworth Aero Club is aimed at young women to show them careers in aviation including becoming a pilot, air traffic controller and much more. However, this event is also open to males who are interested in becoming pilots (defence,

commercial, recreational, agricultural etc). Please see the flyer in the newsletter, posters in the Careers Noticeboard and see or email Mrs Barrett if students will be attending.



University Roadshow

We were fortunate to have three universities come to speak to many of our Year 12 students at the *Regional Uni Roadshow* on 17 February. A presentation was followed by the opportunity to collect information and ask questions.



We have also had a guest speaker talking about gap year options to students. I attended a Careers Advisers Network meeting where I learnt about new resources and changes in many areas which will affect students. These include Sydney University changing its entry requirements for over 60 courses from 2019. Students need to achieve Band 4 in the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) Mathematics (not General Mathematics) to enrol in a range of courses, including Economics, Commerce, Engineering and IT, Psychology, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science and Science.

Year 12 students have also been asked to subscribe to McCarthy Careers Alert to receive information about:

- Jobs
- Scholarships
- Guest speakers and excursions
- Important deadlines
- New courses.

Parents of Year 12 are also invited to subscribe by going to: <http://www.mccarthy.careersalert.com/>

Click on EMAIL LIST at the top of the page and enter your details.

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

LIBRARY

Library Blind Date with a Book

"*Blind date with a book*" was a display at the McCarthy Library in which selected books were wrapped in brown paper and ribbon with a few themes written on them. It is from these themes that you had to choose a book, author and title unknown. After you borrowed it, you found out the title and had to give the book a chance by reading at least 30 pages.

I participated in this activity and the themes in my book were homelessness and survival. It was heart-wrenching. The book was "*Broken Glass*" by Sally Grindley. I thoroughly enjoyed it and finished it. When you returned the book, you filled out a date card and one of the questions was "Would you have picked this book up off the shelf?" Personally, I would not have picked this book up but I am glad I got the chance to read it. I highly recommend to everyone to do this activity and see where it takes you.

by Lauren Hutchinson

CFS

Our Year 9 Child Studies classes and Community and Family Studies classes are seeking donations of baby items. If you have any old items you no longer use such as baby baths, baby carrier/sling, small baby stroller or newborn clothing could you please donate to the school by dropping off items at the Office. We are also in need of some larger plastic dolls. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Mrs Michelle Gale – CFS Teacher

FRENCH

Celebrating 'La Chandeleur' (=Candlemas), a French Cultural Experience

In France, on February 2, people celebrate 'La Chandeleur' and the tradition is to have crêpes on that day. Last week, Year 10 Elective French students cooked over 140 crêpes so that French Year 8 students could taste this French speciality and learn more about French culture. This was also a good opportunity for the students to use the language they have learnt to display their good manners and choose their topping: 'sucre' (sugar), 'citron' (lemon) or 'confiture' (jam). Thank you Year 10! Congratulations Year 8!

Mrs Oriane Monet – French Teacher

SPORT

Diocesan Swimming – Moree

The following students have qualified to attend the Diocesan Swimming Carnival to be held in Moree on 10 March: Bianca Watson, Billie Mitchell, Brendan Scott, Charlie Wilde, Claire O'Neill, Corban Newman, Daisy George, Edward George, Eliza Dawson, Ellie George, Eloise Turner, Hamish Sparke, Harriet Lyden, Jake Mitchell, James Highlands, Joe Mitchell, Josie Chick, Kane Clinch, Kathryn Burke, Lucy-Kate Thompson, Lyndell Boschma, Martha Smith, Mia Newman, Molly Johns, Owen Bennett, Ryley Windmill, Tahlia Fox and Tully Munro.

Mr Matt Feltrin – Sports Coordinator

World Youth Cup - Quarter Horse

Congratulations to Natasha Rapley (Year 12) who was chosen in the Australian Quarter Horse Association Cutting team to compete at the World Youth Cup to be held in June at Tamworth. She is the only representative from NSW and will compete against riders from thirteen other countries.

NBL Basketball

Congratulations to former McCarthy student Nick Kay, who was recognised for his brilliant debut season playing in the NBL with Townsville where he was named "Rookie of the Year". Nick played college basketball for Denver's Metro State University in America before returning to Australia to play in the National Basketball League.

AFL

There are increased opportunities for students to play AFL this year. The local adult competition is starting an Under 16s competition with the home and away games based on the Tamworth Swans senior draw. Games will be held on Saturday at 12 noon during the AFL season. Training has started, and is held each Thursday from 5.00pm – 6.00pm at No 1 Oval. New players welcome and no experience is necessary. For more information contact Josh McKenzie on 0414 954 940 or Paul Kelly on 0438 627 056.

The school had a visit from two Sydney Swans players recently. Sam Naismith and Tom Mitchell, current listed players for the Swans visited McCarthy as part of the Swans Community Camp initiative. A Year 8 PDHPE and Year 12 SLR class were privileged in participating in a light training session with the professional athletes. There was also opportunity for short question and answer time.

Mrs Sharon Stuart

McCarthy Cricket Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the McCarthy Cricket Club will be held on Tuesday 22 March at 6.00pm in the Staff Room. All positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registra) will be vacant. We look forward to welcoming new members to get involved with cricket.

Athletics

Samuel Ellicott will be attending the Australian Youth Athletics Championships in Perth from Tuesday 8 – Monday 14 March. He will be representing NSW, competing in both the 200 and 400 metre events.

LEARN TO Fly

Women of Aviation
www.womenofaviationweek.org

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH
 Tamworth Aero Club from 10am (lunch provided)

- All you wanted to know about learning to fly
- Meet & talk with ladies who fly
- Special trial introductory flights from \$80
- Bookings essential - open to all ages
- New RAAus members - first flight free

SEE YOUR CAREERS ADVISOR ▶ **FOR DETAILS**

FREE

Surviving Your Adolescents

Learn how to manage and let go of your 11-22 year old!

The Surviving Your Adolescents course covers:

- What is normal adolescent behaviour
- How to manage teen risk-taking
- The Four Cardinal Sins (what not to do)
- The relationship between parent-teen communication and adolescent safety
- The four ways to improve your relationship
- What role to take: Observer, Advisor, Negotiator, Director
- How to respond to emotional blackmail



For more information or to register, contact the Family Relationship Centre through Centacare NENW

1800 372 826
6738 7200

WHEN: Wednesday
27th April 2016

TIME: 5.30 - 8.30pm

WHERE: McCarthy College,
Tamworth

COST: FREE

Registration is essential. This course is subject to registration numbers.

