

Newsletter



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Dear Parents & Students,

Prayer

Mother Theresa's Nazareth Prayer for the Family

Heavenly Father,
You have given us the model of life in the holy Family of Nazareth.
Help us, O loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth
where love, peace and joy reign.
May it be deeply contemplative, intensely Eucharistic, revived with joy.

May we love one another as God loves each one of us
more and more each day and forgive each other's faults,
as you forgive our sins.

Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give
and give whatever you take with a big smile.

Amen

Reflection

On the eve of Marriage and Family week in our diocese (25 -31 July) and the canonisation of Mother Teresa of Calcutta later this year on September 4, it is very worthwhile to reflect on the importance of families and pray for the institution of the family. It is very timely in this Year of Mercy that we reflect on the importance of the family as the first place we learn 'mercy'; we experience personally its life giving force as children forgiven by loving parents; and as parents we are called on to extend the same mercy as the father of the Prodigal Son, again and again to our children as they journey through adolescence.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NAIDOC Assembly

Once again the annual NAIDOC Assembly was held in the McCarthy Hall to celebrate and highlight the wonderful contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students make to the cultural fabric of McCarthy. In line with the 2016 NAIDOC Theme, 'Songlines: The living narrative of our nation', the Assembly items emphasised the importance of connection and sharing the rich history and cultural diversity of this great land. We were especially privileged to witness dance and song performances from St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Birrelee Child Care Centre, and our very own McCarthy Cultural Performance Group - Deadly Xpression. I publically commend the hard work of Mrs Joelene Faint and Miss Kisani Upward in preparing and presenting a wonderful ceremony for our college. I also thank the local Gomeroi Elders for their presence and support. I also thank our guest speaker Ms Lorraine Riggs for her generosity in delivering an interesting life story.

School Fees to be Emailed

Previously we have mailed school fee accounts to all families through Australia Post. As with many schools and businesses around Australia, this is no longer a sustainable option. Consequently, as with all of our other correspondence from McCarthy, we have made the decision that, from Term 3 2016, **fee statements will be emailed to families**. Please contact the school if you have not advised, or you have changed your email details. Instalment 3 will be emailed next week and I ask that if any fees are overdue to please settle as soon as possible.

Parent Association

We are very fortunate to have such an active and vibrant Parent Association at McCarthy. Having raised many thousands of dollars in recent years the parent members have been very busy recently and have purchased some useful and much needed equipment for our students and the community. We have installed five refrigerated water bubblers that will be greatly appreciated in the hot summer months. Similarly, the Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre is being fitted out with cutlery and crockery for major functions, and the hall facilities are being expanded with the purchase of twelve round tables for events such as the Trivia Night. We are indeed thankful and appreciative of the tireless work by this wonderful group of parents. Please feel welcome to join this group when they meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the staffroom.

Also, a further reminder that the Trivia Night has been postponed until Saturday August 27. Bring a friend or two for a great night of fun and comradery!

Diary Dates

28 July: Australian Mathematics Competition
28 July: School Photos
28 July: Europe Excursion Information Session
30 July: Trivia Night
1 Aug: HSC Trials commence
2 Aug: ICAS English
11 Aug: Music Excursion – Brisbane
12 Aug: Diocesan Athletics – Armidale
16 Aug: ICAS Mathematics
16 Aug: Board & Association Meetings
17 Aug: Europe Excursion Meeting
18 Aug: School Photos catch-up day
30 Aug: Science & Engineering Challenge
30 Aug: Year 10 VALID test
1 Sept: Diocesan Basketball – Tamworth
8 Sept: Whole School Mass
9 Sept: Walkathon
14 Sept: Year 12 Graduation Mass 6pm
15 Sept: Year 11 Exams commence
15 Sept: Catholic Schools Celebrate
16 Sept: NSWCCC Athletics – Homebush
20 Sept: Board & Association Meetings
21 Sept: Year 12 Farewell Assembly

Year 12

Please keep the Year 12 students in your prayers in the coming months as they prepare for their HSC assessments by participating in the HSC Trial exams beginning on August 1. While many students would be confident of achieving well due to the hard work and preparation over the past year, the actual assessments can still present a significant challenge. Thankfully, they have been well supported by our generous teaching staff who dedicated a number of voluntary hours to study workshops over the recent break to support our Year 12 students. This level of commitment does not happen at every NSW school and is another example of the wonderful dedication and professionalism of the teaching staff of McCarthy. I also offer public thanks to Mrs Susan Barrett for coordinating and delivering an informative and valuable workshop for parents and Year 12 students on the university entry process last week. Not only did Susan access quality presenters from the University of New England, University of Wollongong and St Alberts Residential College, she also summarised and simplified, what can be, a complicated and convoluted application scheme into a manageable system that promotes accessibility for all Year 12 students looking to enrol at tertiary level. Well done and thank you to all involved.

New Staff

With the departure of Mr Nick Fahey last term, we welcome to McCarthy Mrs Karin Bennett as a Mathematics/Technology teacher. We also invite Mrs Aimee Cook into the McCarthy community as our new Counsellor in a job-share contract one day per week with Mrs Tamara Shoemark. Please make these new staff feel welcome here.

I also commend and thank Mrs Sharon Stuart for stepping up to the role of Acting Assistant Principal when Mrs Sally Sparke takes a well-deserved period of leave in weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Term 4.

Marriage and Families Week

Bishop Michael Kennedy has designated Marriage and Families Week next week in the Armidale Diocese. The theme, this year, provides an opportunity for students to explore how the Holy Family can provide role models of Mercy in the context of the family. The Holy Family had their issues like all families, but it is by reflecting on how the Holy Family responded to these issues and challenges that modern families face, that gives us focus for this week. Marriage and Family Week concludes on Sunday 31 July with a parish Mass and celebration. Throughout the week, at school level, teachers of Religious Education will be encouraging us to pray for all families and will remind students of the parish celebration on 31 July.

On-Line School Results Survey – August 1 – 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 1 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.

Change to Starting Time from Term 3

In response to industrial requirements that relate to hours of duty for teaching staff, we have begun a six-month trial, from Tuesday 19 July, of a slight change to the bell times that begin the school day.

- The Warning Bell for students to move to Mentor Group will ring at **8.45am**.
- Students will be expected to be at their Mentor Group room at **8.50am**.
- Academic classes will then begin at 9.00am.
- There will be no change to the 3.00pm finish time for classes.

I trust that this slight change does not present any difficulties to families and their morning travel plans.

May your God go with you.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

PASTORAL CARE**Welcome**

We welcome Alyson Hutchinson, Year 10, and her family to the McCarthy community.

Condolences

Condolences are extended to Jasmine Tan and her family on the passing of her grandmother.

Term Calendars

Term Calendars have been emailed to all students this week. Parents can also access them via Moodle on the school website.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Year 10 Subject Selection Preliminary 2017

Year 10 students spent time with Mrs Barrett last term thinking about their career choices. The students will be selecting their subjects for Preliminary 2017 this term. They will have the chance to listen to a range of speakers and rotate through a series of presentations from KLA Coordinators on Tuesday 2 August during school time. Parents and Year 10 students are encouraged to attend the **Subject Selection Evening** on Wednesday 3 August at 6.30pm in the school hall. Any student interested in Vocational Training: TVET courses or School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships, should also attend the TVET & SBAT Information Evening on Monday 8 August in A1 from 6.30pm- 7.30pm.

This is an opportunity to learn about requirements for both Preliminary and HSC and to make some important decisions in regard to senior schooling. It is a time to ask questions, find out factual information and make confident choices that will enable further study and pathways post school. For many students, choosing a broad range of subjects that they enjoy and are interested in, is the key to senior success.

Year 12 Trial HSC

All students must attend their exam at the published time. In the event of illness, the school is to be notified prior to the exam. A medical certificate must be provided upon returning to school and an 'Application for Extension of or Special Consideration for an Assessment Task' (blue form) is to be completed and submitted to Mrs Maxworthy.

Many Year 12 students took advantage of the opportunity for revision over the break, thanks to the generosity of teachers who hosted study sessions. For most subjects, the Trial Examination is a significant proportion of the final school based assessment mark. The 5 P's adage, Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance, is a reminder to students that it is never too late to study, and preparing well is an antidote to stress.

School Based Trainee Award

Abbie Anderson has been named School Based Trainee of the Year at TAFE New England and received her award at the annual Student and Staff Institute Awards on Friday 22 July at Tamworth West League Club. Congratulations Abbie.

Mrs Raelene Maxworthy – Teaching and Learning Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

This is a decision making term for many Year 12 students as they begin applying for apprenticeships and/or university.

Over fifty students, accompanied by Mr Geoff Denton and myself, attended the Newcastle University Schools Visit day at the end of Term 2.

Last Wednesday, students from Years 11 and 12 and their parents attended the annual University Information Evening held in the Rosary Centre. Representatives from the universities of Wollongong, New England and St Albert's College in Armidale were in attendance to provide information and answer questions.

The next major event for Year 12, immediately following their Trial HSC examinations, will be the distribution of the *UAC 2017* and *QTAC 2017* books, together with information sessions on how to apply for university and the various early entry schemes. This will take place in Week 5.



Year 10

Towards the end of last term and the beginning of this term, I spent several periods with each Year 10 Maths class talking about options in regard to careers, work experience and subject selection for those continuing on to Year 11. Each student received a *Year 10 Careers Booklet* with a survey sheet that is to be completed and signed by both the student and a parent/guardian. The sheet is to be returned to the student's Maths teacher by the end of this week. I will use this information to provide careers advice in a timely and efficient manner to assist students.

Parents of Students in Years 10, 11 and 12

I urge all parents of students in these years to view the following short YouTube clip explaining how they can use JobJump to assist their children in making career, subject and course decisions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZoyckJwVq&feature=youtu.be>

Parents are invited to register with JobJump, on the McCarthy Careers page, at www.mccarthy.nsw.edu.au/careers/ or go to www.jobjump.com.au and click on **I'm new:**

- 1) Type in *McCarthy Catholic College Tamworth*
- 2) Type in our password: *brumbies*
- 3) Add your email and continue the registration process to gain access to information and relevant emails.

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

PARENT INFORMATION

Meeting

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 16 August** at 7.15pm in the Board Room. All welcome.

Trivia Night

The Association's annual Trivia Night has been **postponed** and will now be held on Saturday 27 August in the McCarthy hall.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

The annual Jump Rope for Heart day was held in the hall on Wednesday 21 July. The day involved all Year 8 students skipping for 3 hours and one of the highlights of this year's event was a visit by Fiona Coote. Fiona spoke to the students about the importance of exercise and healthy habits, together with a message of appreciation for their fundraising efforts. This year, the students raised close to \$2500.00 for the National Heart Foundation. Congratulations to all those students who raised money and participated so enthusiastically on the day. Thank you very much to Mrs. Burt, Mr Feltrin and Mr Williams who continually encouraged and motivated the students during the day, and to Mr Adams and Mr Davy who worked with the students throughout the Jump Rope for Heart unit of work.

Mr Ian McKenzie – PDHPE Coordinator



SPORT

The only sporting events listed for Term 3 at this time are:

- Friday 12 August - Diocesan Athletics Carnival, Armidale
- Friday 18 September - NSWCCC Athletics Championships, Homebush

Could I please remind all parents that students receive information regarding sport either via the daily Notices, read during Mentor Group, or the MCC SPORT Google Classroom. If your child does not return notes by due dates or fails to attend meetings, this may make them ineligible to attend a sport in which they excel. I would hope that all students are now used to checking the Google Classroom or following up any notices read during Mentor Group.

Football

Beau Cavallaro, Year 7, is one of three Tamworth boys selected from the best Under 12 players in Northern NSW Football for a Northern NSW High Performance Country squad. Earlier this year, Beau completed a three day camp at Speers Point which included training sessions, small sided games with his Emerging Jets counterparts and a battery of testing conducted by Newcastle University staff. The camp was the first step in the selection process for the Northern NSW High Performance Country team. Beau was also identified through his playing performance at State Championships titles. Congratulations Beau.

Hockey

During the recent holidays Maeve Galvin, Georgia Horniman and Amber Witney were members of the Tamworth team that were joint winners of the State Under 13 Girls' Hockey Championships (Division 1) held at Wagga Wagga. Georgia and Amber were subsequently named in a squad to try out for the NSW teams. Following final trials it was announced that Amber Witney made the NSW State Under 13 Girls' team, while Georgia Horniman has been selected in the NSW Blues team. Both girls will compete in the National Championships in Perth from September 29 to October 8. Congratulations to both girls.

Mr Matt Feltrin – Sport Coordinator