

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

Prayer for God's Blessing on our Labours

O Lord, graciously look down upon your servants and upon the work of their hands.

We ask that you bless and preserve the fruits of the earth, that the needy may be filled with good things and that all may praise the glory of Thy bounty.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Diary Dates

9 Sept: Walkathon
 13 Sept: Year 12 Twilight Retreat
 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
 23 Sept: Term 3 concludes
 10 Oct: Term 4 commences
 13 Oct: HSC written exams commence

Some Catholic Culture – Ember Days

Ember days mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. In Australia, the Church observes the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring as special days of prayer and penance, focusing on the environment and God's providence (Ordo, 2016). According to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, the purpose of Ember days, "*besides the general one intended by all prayer and fasting, was to thank God for the gifts of nature, to teach men to make use of them in moderation, and to assist the needy.*" Although Ember days originated in pagan Roman practice, since 1968 they are recognised as "*days ... to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to make public thanksgiving... On each day of these celebrations the Mass should be one of the votive Masses for various needs and occasions that is best suited to the intentions of the petitioners.*" (General Norms for the Liturgical Year Calendar, Apostolic Letter of Pope Paul VI)

First Friday Mass

McCarthy was well represented at First Friday Mass last week. Approximately ten staff and thirty students from Years 11 & 12 joined with local parishioners at the 7.00 am Mass at St Nicholas'. As this was the first Friday in Spring, we observed it as the Ember day marking the beginning of Spring in the Southern hemisphere.

Vinnies

The St Agnes Conference has had its final formal meeting with the 2016 executive, five of whom are Year 12 students who will be finishing their term of office at the end of the school term. We will formally farewell and thank the girls at a special Vinnies lunch on Wednesday 14 September.

Mrs Cate Allen – Mission and Spiritual Formation

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Social Justice and the McCarthy Walkathon

Catholic social teaching consists of those aspects of Roman Catholic doctrine which relate to matters dealing with the respect of the individual human life. A distinctive feature of Catholic social doctrine is its concern for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. Two of the seven key areas of "Catholic social teaching" are pertinent to social justice:

- *Life and dignity of the human person:* The foundational principle of "Catholic Social Teaching" is the sanctity of all human life and the inherent dignity of every human person, from conception to natural death. Human life must be valued above all material possessions.
- *Preferential option for the poor and vulnerable:* Catholics believe Jesus taught that on the Day of Judgement God will ask what each person did to help the poor and needy. The Catholic Church believes that through words, prayers and deeds, one must show solidarity with, and compassion for, the poor. The moral test of any society is "how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation. People are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor." (Wikipedia - accessed September 5th 2016)

Consequently, as the pre-eminent service opportunity at McCarthy, the annual Walkathon resonates with these two important Catholic social teachings. We believe by offering this practical opportunity to students that their awareness of those in need will grow and hopefully make some difference to their perceptions of what is personally possible to serve those at the margins.

We similarly feel it is an extremely worthwhile activity as it involves physical activity and encourages the building of community. I thank the staff, particularly Mr Luke Adams, for their expert organisation and active support of this significant community service opportunity. I similarly commend the families and businesses that have actively supported this year's Walkathon through cash and physical donations. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this Friday to allow the day to go ahead without interference from rain.

Whole School Mass with Bishop Michael Kennedy

We were indeed fortunate this week to celebrate our Term 3 Whole School Mass with the Bishop of Armidale Diocese in the McCarthy Catholic College Hall. As only the second opportunity that we have had to gather as a faith community on site, we were very humbled to have the Bishop coordinate his precious time during his Episcopal visit to St Nicholas Parish to allow for the community celebration of Eucharist. I thank Father Joe Adriano for his enthusiastic support and organisation through the Chancery and Mrs Cate Allen and her team of support staff for another wonderful liturgy.

Social

Congratulations to the Student Leadership Council on the coordination of another great social for the students. I particularly identify the Year 11 members for their hard work and initiative in offering opportunities for students to interact in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. Once again I commend the generous staff of the college for donating their personal time to supervise and support the students in raising even more funds for the Walkathon.

Trivia Night

Congratulations to the Parent Association members on the coordination of a wonderful Trivia Night held here at the college on August 27. A great night of fun and games was had by all who attended and the overall profit for the night was \$1075. Thank you to the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes.

May your God go with you.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

PASTORAL CARE

Condolences

It was with great sadness that we heard of the recent passing of former McCarthy student Blake Hallam as a result of a car accident. Blake was a student at McCarthy from 2005 - 2010. He quickly established himself as one of our "cowboys" with his big smile, down to earth personality, and only a slight swagger at this time. Blake had a friendly, easy manner that, at times, may have helped when he was sent to see me at the office. He excelled in Agricultural Studies and was a proud member of the Equestrian Team and Cattle Show Team, spending many hours working and showing cattle.

Blake was a young man who made an impression on people and the communities he was involved in and will be missed by school friends, rodeo friends, and many others with whom he has come in contact.

The McCarthy community, past and present, send our thoughts and prayers to his family, Dianne, Dave and Courtney, and all who have been lucky enough to be a part of Blake's life.

Mrs Jane Burt

CAREERS NEWS

Last week approximately thirty Year 12 students attended a presentation from the University of Newcastle.

Earlier this week I met with the Year 10 students who intend to seek employment at the end of this year or study at TAFE in 2017. We spoke about goals, the importance of resumes and work experience, and also about ways to find apprenticeships etc.

Deadlines for many of the applications for university early entry and other related programs have either passed or are due shortly.

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



MUSIC

Percussion Workshop

Year 9 and 10 Elective Music students recently attended a Samba Percussion workshop here at McCarthy. The presenter, Mr Tom Harding, was entertaining and extremely knowledgeable, forcing students to step outside their comfort zones. Students were given the opportunity to perform different rhythms on four main types of instruments; agogo bells, shakers and tambours (drums). The workshop was very relevant to the Year 10 Music topic, World Music.

Mrs Lisa Lane – Music Teacher

PARENT INFORMATION

Meeting

The next meeting of the McCarthy Association is on **Tuesday 20 September** at 7.15pm in the Board Room. All welcome.

SPORT

Oztag

Jada Taylor, Year 7, was recently selected for Oztag to represent NSW (Under 13s) in a State of Origin series played at St Patrician Brothers Blacktown. NSW won their opening game 7-2, their second 6-4 and the deciding match was abandoned due to bad weather. Jada scored three tries in both matches and was awarded Most Valuable Player. She will compete in the Junior National Championships in Coffs Harbour on 14 October. Congratulations to Jada and we wish her well.

Diocesan Basketball

Congratulations to McCarthy's representative Junior Basketball teams who recently competed in the Diocesan Basketball tournament against teams from O'Connor Catholic College Armidale, Holy Trinity Inverell and St Mary's Gunnedah. All four McCarthy teams were successful and will now compete at the NSWCCC Junior Basketball Championships in Penrith in October.

Thank you to Miss Fran Mumford and Mr Luke Adams for their organisation on the day, the student referees who gave up their time to officiate, and the Year 12SLR class for assisting throughout the day. Thank you also to Mr Tony Higgins, Mr Matt Hobson, Mr Paul Hobson and Mr Neil Wood for giving up their time to coach our teams.

Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS) Program 2017

Students who are passionate about developing their potential, both on and off the field, and are you looking for opportunities on the pre-elite sporting pathway, are invited to apply for the NIAS Sports Program for 2017. Sports include AFL, Basketball (boys and girls), Football (boys), Golf, Hockey (boys and girls), Lonestar (individual sports), Mountain Biking, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union U14s (15 a side), Rugby 7s U17s (boys and girls) and Tennis.

All NIAS athletes are provided with specialist coaching and support, holistic athlete development, a clothing pack, touring opportunities beyond our region, and the annual Academy Awards. For more information please visit www.nias.org.au or phone 67 662526.

Bull Riding



Patrick Ferguson, Year 11, became the Junior Champion Bull Rider for 2016 at the recent Mount Isa Rodeo. There were sixty competitors in the event and Patrick was the only competitor to ride for the full eight seconds in the final. Congratulations to the "Thriller from Manilla."

Mr Matt Feltrin – Sport Coordinator



How Do I Become a Catholic?

Find out how a person becomes a Catholic or simply discover more about the Catholic faith.

Two information sessions will be held to assist people with their inquiries in a supportive way.

- **Wednesday 14 September at 7.30pm:** Mary Help of Christians hall, Hillvue Rd South Tamworth
- **Saturday 17 September at 2.00pm:** St Nicholas' Primary School library, 143 Carthage St East Tamworth

For further information: phone 67662228 or email catholicinquirytamworth@gmail.com



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TAMWORTH SPORTS DOME SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Tamworth Sports Dome will be running a school holiday sports program providing children with a healthy and fun way to spend their holidays, and offering great holiday programs and activities. The programs offer the opportunity to try a range of different sports and make new friends in a safe and supervised environment.

For all enquiries and bookings please contact 02 67622631 or trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au