

# Newsletter

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## Dear Parents & Students

### Prayer

Advent Prayer

O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ.

Guide us in your ways of compassion

so that we may extend your love and mercy to all people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word,

Who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever.

Amen.

### Reflection

Advent is a waiting time; we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus; we await Christ's second coming; we await Christ's coming to us in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Advent then is a season of great celebration and anticipation or hope. Hope helps us believe in the mystery of Christ and God's presence in our lives. Our hope is sustained by our knowledge that God sent his son Jesus on the first Christmas in order to save us from our sinfulness and to make a home within us for his Holy Spirit.

## PRINCIPAL MATTERS

### Thank You

As this is our last week of the term for our student body, it is also the last edition of the Newsletter for this year. In the spirit of Advent, I pray that each of our families enjoy a hopeful and peaceful preparation into Christmas and that the new year brings everyone in our community a sense of happiness and fulfilment. I hope that each and every one of our students have an opportunity to relax and refresh and are ready to start next year with a great sense of enthusiasm.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the entire staff of the McCarthy Catholic College community. The great work completed by the Administration and Support Staff is evident through the presentation of facilities and services and the smooth running of the College. Our teaching staff have worked very hard to not only teach but also support, motivate and encourage our students to be the best that they can be. Finally, the numerous opportunities across a broad range of activities is also testament to the expertise and generosity of the entire staff.

I would also particularly like to thank and recognise the efforts of the College Executive over this year. I believe that McCarthy is very fortunate to have senior leaders with such expertise and dedication as Mrs Sally Sparke, Mrs Cate Allen, Mrs Libby Molony and Mrs Raelene Maxworthy. I have been very lucky to be able to not only work with each of them, but to also be able to rely on their advice and counsel in my role.

I would also like to thank the parents and caregivers of each of our students. Thank you for your support of the College and what we do and for the partnership that you have entered into with us to help your sons and daughters reach their potential. Whilst school holidays are generally seen as a time for a break from work, I am also very aware that many of our parents cannot take a holiday during this period due to work and/or farm commitments. I hope that each of you get an opportunity to spend some quality time with your families over the festive season, and I look forward to working with each of you again next year.

### Staffing

I welcome the following staff to McCarthy from 2017:

Ms Andrea Woods – Secondary Support teacher; Mrs Ramona Walsh – Science teacher (permanent); Mrs Natalie Deacon – English teacher (permanent); Mrs Tanya Laird – PDHPE teacher (permanent); Mrs Natahlia Bryant - Mathematics teacher (contract); Miss Amanda Adams – Science teacher (contract); Mrs Nicole Anderson – English/RE (contract); Mrs Marnie Didlick – HSIE teacher (contract); Miss Tammy Murphy – Education Assistant (contract); and IT Assistant – Mr David Northey (contract).

I am also pleased to announce the following staff have been appointed to new roles:

Mr Marcus Chittick – Student Management Coordinator; and Mr Damian Kenniff – Year 10 Coordinator.

We farewell the following staff and wish them well in their new phase of life:

Mr Isaac Carr; Miss Fran Mumford; Mrs Gill Downes; Mrs Karen Bennett; Mrs Shannon Monro; Mrs Kate Woolaston; and Miss Tegan Brodbeck.

### Award Night

Congratulations to all of the award winners from our Academic Awards Night held last Monday. It was a fitting climax to the academic year for all of the wonderful work that our talented students have been able to achieve through hard work and dedication. Their willingness to work in partnership with their teachers and peers to advance their personal achievement was showcased beautifully throughout the ceremony. Thank you to all of the parents and relatives who were able to attend. I also particularly identify the long weeks of hard work and 'eye-for-detail' undertaken by Mrs Jo O'Brien to present such a quality showpiece of our academic program. Well done to all involved!

### Diary Dates

16 Dec: Last day of Term 4 for students

#### 2017

27 Jan: Staff commence

30 Jan: Years 7, 11 & new students commence

31 Jan: Whole school (Years 7-12) commence

6 Feb: University Excursion

13 Feb: Elevate Education

**Captains for 2017**

It was my pleasure to announce the Captains and Vice Captains for 2017 at our Award Night last Monday.

Congratulations to Katherine Sleiman (Captain), Jack Awad (Captain), Karie Mayman (Vice Captain) and Daniel Glasson (Vice Captain). I look forward to working closely with these students next year.



**Return to School 2017**

The Administration Office opens and teaching staff return for professional development on Friday 27 January 2017. Years 7 and 11 and new students participate in Induction Day on Monday 30 January while the whole school (Years 7 to 12) will begin classes on Tuesday 31 January.

Merry Christmas and may your God go with you.

*Mr Geoff McManus – Principal*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Thanksgiving Mass**

On Wednesday 7 December, teachers and students in Years 7, 8 and 11 celebrated the end of the 2016 academic year with a Thanksgiving Mass in the school Hall. Father Joseph was the main celebrant and he was assisted by Fr Joe. In the Mass we gave thanks for the blessings that have been bestowed on members of the McCarthy community throughout the year; in addition we prayed for our two priests Fr Joe and Joseph and wished Fr Joseph well in his new parish in Warialda next year. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank Fathers Joe and Joseph for all they have done for us and with us during the year.

**Vinnies**

A number of Vinnie members gathered for a social evening on 13 December. During the evening the students packaged up in excess of \$600.00 worth of food and Christmas items for redistribution among McCarthy families who are experiencing difficult times this Christmas. I would like to thank the students and staff of McCarthy for their very generous donations of goods for the Christmas hampers. We were able to put together twelve very good size quality hampers for our families in need.

*Mrs Cate Allen – Mission and Spiritual Formation Coordinator*

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Teaching and Learning has flourished this term. Students have completed programs of work in Key Learning Areas, their hard work has been celebrated and end of year reports have been emailed to parents and carers; clearly 2016 has been a productive and enjoyable year.

**Year 12 2017**

For Year 11, our new Year 12 students, Term 4 has been challenging as they ‘wind up’ their first term of HSC school based assessments. Adjusting to the guidelines around HSC school-based assessment and learning the BOSTES rules and procedures requires effort and clarity on what is substantiated reason for missing assessment. Students must fill in an extension form for special consideration, illness or misadventure and provide *acceptable* documentation. The school must be notified by 9.00am if students are absent with good reason, according to the steps outlined in the blue form and in the assessment schedule booklet:

<p><b>Substantiated Reasons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A serious medical condition which is supported by a medical certificate.</li> <li>• Representing McCarthy for a sporting ‘one off’ eg National event.*</li> <li>• TVET mandatory work placement.*</li> <li>• Specialist appointments which can be verified with a medical certificate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non Substantiated Reasons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing for a formal</li> <li>• Going for their P’s</li> <li>• Paid work</li> <li>• ‘Sick’ with no medical certificate</li> <li>• ‘Didn’t know’</li> </ul>
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\* In these instances, students must sit or submit their tasks before they attend.

The Teaching and Learning team request the support of parents in maintaining integrity in assessment by ensuring your child adheres to the McCarthy Assessment Policy which is available on the school website and Year 12 students have a printed copy.

There is a temptation over the January ‘sales’ to book cheap holidays and take advantage of deals in non-peak periods. I implore all families to please consider the impact this has on daily school life; in particular, school based assessment. Half-Yearly Examinations, Major Works, even during the school holidays for Year 12 students, will require them to be able to focus on their job as a student without the added stress of being away. All applications for leave must be approved by the Principal.

New pens and pencils and fresh new books signify a brand new year and a fresh new start. Please make sure students are fully prepared when they return to school in 2017.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our KLA Coordinators and our talented teaching teams this year and thank them for their dedication and leadership.

Merry Christmas.

*Mrs Raelene Maxworthy – Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

## CAREERS

### HSC and ATAR

This week sees the release of HSC results for the 2016 Year 12 students on Thursday and ATARs will be released this Friday to eligible students.

It can be a very nerve-racking time for students and their parents. For some, it will bring joy and a chance to get into their desired university course. For others, the ATAR may be much lower than hoped for or expected. For these students, it can be very disappointing but there are always options and pathways.

I urge students and their parents to contact me either at school or via email to discuss what choices are available to allow them to pursue their desired course or pathway. I have many resources available to help students with Plan B and Plan C that I can share with them and their parents who contact me.

### Jobs for School Leavers

A range of full-time and casual jobs are available including gap year jobs and apprenticeships. I have posted these on the McCarthy Catholic College Tamworth Careers page on Facebook and I urge job seekers to like the page to keep informed.

### McCarthy Catholic College Tamworth Careers on Facebook

Jobs, scholarships, articles and advice for students and parents are being added daily. So please check it out:

<https://www.facebook.com/McCarthy-Catholic-College-Tamworth-Careers-1058102914247204/>

Best wishes to the class of 2016.

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

## EUROPE

### Europe in April 2018

After another successful tour in September-October this year, the school is looking at organising another tour in April, 2018 with Academy Travel. It is open to all members of the McCarthy community – students, families and staff. A minimum of twenty participants is required for it to go ahead.

There will be an information evening early in Term 1, 2017. This will cover dates of travel, details of the itinerary, what is involved, final costs and what is included.

**Expression of interest:** If you wish to find out more now, please send an email to: [sbarrett@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sbarrett@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au)

*Mrs Susan Barrett*

## MATHEMATICS

Congratulations to all students who participated in either Mathematics competition held this year, particularly those students who went in both. We would particularly like to mention the following students:

### ICAS Competition

Year 7: Matthew Gray, Benjamin Nelson, Kushani Thanippuli – Credit

Year 8: Imeshi Dayaratne, Eden Filicietti – Distinction

Riley Frankel, Grace Pawsey – Credit

Year 9: Lauren Hutchinson – Credit

Year 10: Christopher Macpherson – Credit

Year 11: Jack Murray – Distinction

Harper Galvin, Amanda Leone – Credit

Year 12: Douglas Pianta, Nicholas Ryan – Credit

### Australian Mathematics Competition

Year 7: Kushani Thanippuli – Credit

Year 8: Eden Filicietti, Thomas Macpherson, Grace Pawsey – Credit

Year 12: Douglas Pianta – Distinction

Isiah Darcy – Credit

### Textbooks

Students going into Years 9 and 10 in 2017 should wait until next year to find out which class they are in before purchasing the required Mathematics textbook.

There will be some second hand textbooks available for purchase for Years 7 to 10 at the beginning of next year.

Wishing you and your families every blessing in this Christmas season.

*Mrs Jane Ashcroft – Mathematics Coordinator*

## CREATIVE ARTS

### Drama News

Jaydon Merrick (Preliminary) is well on the way to fulfilling his dramatic aspirations with his most recent success. Along with his school studies, which include 2 Unit Drama and the HSC Entertainment Industry course, Jaydon is currently studying Drama through Trinity College, London. Under the guidance of his Speech and Drama teacher, Mrs Robin Christmas, Jaydon recently completed his Grade 7 Performance Arts Examination, where he received a mark of 95/100 earning him a distinction; the highest grade of the Trinity College system. Congratulations to Jaydon. His Drama peers continue to cheer him on.

*Mrs Felicity Sawtell – Drama teacher*

**FRENCH**



**French Excursion to Tamworth French Community**

In Weeks 6 and 7, Year 9 and 10 Elective French students had the opportunity to have a taste of French culture and cuisine on their excursion to Le Pruneau restaurant and apply their knowledge of the language outside of school. They were served a three course lunch, as students in France have at the canteen every day. The French 'déjeuner' (lunch) included an entrée, with bread and cheese, a main, and a 'Paris-Brest' for dessert. Délicieux!



**Languages**

After looking into the history of the English and French languages to understand why so many words look the same or have been borrowed from the other language, Year 8 students reflected on the Australian language and its origins.

To give the students another perspective on their own language and culture, Len Waters visited some French classes. He talked about the connection between language and culture, and the Aboriginal language in the region. On his second visit, Len was accompanied by Mark Atkins who offered us a spiritual and wonderful musical experience on his didgeridoo. How privileged we were.



**Year 8 Challenge**

Last Friday, Year 8M who won the Term 4 Year 8 Challenge got to have a taste of how the Epiphany is celebrated in France (a bit in advance) and went through the 'King's galette' tradition: The person who gets the little token hidden in the galette is King or Queen and chooses their partner. Congratulations to Brianna and Cameron.

*Mrs Oriane Monet – French teacher*

**BAND**

**Narrabri Band Camp**



On Tuesday 29 November, Mrs Lane, Mr Godden and ten junior band students went to the annual Narrabri Music Workshop. This offered a chance for students to learn and gain new experiences with their instruments and perform for the Narrabri community and St Xavier's Primary School.

The group consisting of a tenor and baritone sax, a flute, two clarinets, two trumpets, a tuba and a euphonium. For many of the musicians, it was their first time playing in a collaborative group with unfamiliar faces, let alone a 100 piece Wind Orchestra.

We greeted our tutors at 9.00am and began to practise many pieces that we had only viewed for the first time that day. At 3.00pm, the Intermediate Band had concluded but several students were given the opportunity to stay an extra few hours for Advanced Band pieces. We then headed to the motel and spent the afternoon swimming and enjoying each other's company.

After a tasty barbeque and a restless night sleep, we got ready for our final pre-concert practice. Following a **very long** lip hurting practice session, we returned to the motel to get dressed for the evening concert where we performed our entire repertoire to an

ecstatic audience which included an advanced section.

On the final day, we had one last tutorial session and performed together as a whole Wind Orchestra. We performed for St Xavier's Primary School before heading home.

It was an amazing experience for the students who attended. We all gained so much experience from it, had heaps of fun together and we all look forward to next year! Thank you to Mrs Lane for her organisation and guidance.

*Michelle Coates and Riley Frankel (Year 8)*

**SPORT**

**Diocesan Cricket Competition**

On 16 November, McCarthy's Year 7-9 Cricket team played St Mary's, Gunnedah at Riverside 5. After winning the toss and batting first, St Mary's scored 6/169 from their 25 overs. The leading wicket takers were Ed George (2/17 from 5 overs) and Luke Maher (2/31 from 5 overs). In reply, McCarthy was restricted to 5/136. James Austin (55 not out) and Luke Maher (29) were the top scorers. Thanks to Mr Geoff Denton for umpiring on the day and to Mr Bede Maher for his enthusiastic coaching and support of the team.

*Mr Tim Godden*

**Basketball Singlets**

Urgent - A reminder that singlets from the Wednesday night Basketball Competition are to be returned to the College Bookroom.

### Christmas Mass Times

**St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth**  
**St Nicholas Church**

Saturday 24	Family Mass	7.00pm
Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	9.00pm
Saturday 24	Midnight Mass	
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am
No Evening Mass on Christmas Day		

**St Mary's Church**

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

**Kootingal**

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

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	8.30am
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**Nundle**

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

Saturday 24	Children's Mass	5.30pm
Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	8.00pm
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.00am

**St Edward's Parish South Tamworth**  
**Mary Help of Christians**

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

**St Brigid's Parish Quirindi**  
**Quirindi**

Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	7.00pm
Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	9.30am

**Willow Tree**

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

**Attunga**

Sunday 25	Christmas Mass	7.00pm
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**Manilla**

Saturday 24	Christmas Vigil Mass	9.30am
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**ADIG** wish you & your family a safe, happy and holy Christmas.



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