

Newsletter

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Dear Parents & Students,

The Grail Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I give my hands to do your work.

I give you my feet to go your way.

I give you my eyes to see as you do.

I give you my tongue to speak your words.

I give you my mind that you may think in me.

Above all, I give you my heart
that you may love in me your Father and all mankind.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,
who will live and work and pray in me. Amen.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Pray for us

St Dominic: Pray for us

Blessed Edmund Rice: Pray for us.

The Grail prayer above appears in our McCarthy students' 2017 Planner; it encapsulates very well the spirit of our Lenten observances; that through our fasting, almsgiving and prayer we will be transformed and become more Christ like in our daily lives.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Catholic Schools' Week

Catholic Schools' Week (CSW) 2017 will be held from 5 to 11 March and will involve the communities of all Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools' Week is about celebration. One of the major objectives of CSW is to raise public awareness of the strengths of Catholic schools and highlight the significant contribution the Catholic education sector makes to our state and nation. CSW is an opportunity to share with the broader community the great things that take place in our schools every day. This year's theme is: "GREAT LEARNING, GREAT COMMUNITIES". The theme fittingly reflects the type of learning which we are embarking on as a school community to engage in contemporary learning that prepares our students holistically for the exciting prospects that await them in the modern world. Our Year 11 students and teachers, along with our College Chorale, were fortunate to attend and participate in the Diocesan Catholic Schools' Week Mass at Mary Help of Christians Church, South Tamworth on Tuesday with our Bishop Michael Kennedy concelebrating with the local parish priests. We felt a special part of a broader Catholic community when we were joined by Year 6 students and staff from the five local Catholic primary schools. Thank you to Mrs Cate Allen, Ms Katherine Harvey and Mr Tim Godden for their work in coordinating the involvement of McCarthy students in what was a very special occasion.

Twilight Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to MacKillop on their last gasp win at the recent Twilight Swimming Carnival. In bumping out Dominic by two points they repeated their determined efforts from 2016 whereby they won by three points! Congratulations also to all of those students who chose to attend and enjoy the community spirit of participation and good natured competition. Enormous thanks to the staff for their hard work on the day, especially Mr Matt Feltrin for his smooth organisation.

School Fees

School fees have now been **emailed to all families**. If you have not received your fee statement, or need further information, please contact Mrs Colleen O'Meagher on comeagher@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au or 67610804.

Year 12 Study Periods

Please note that for those students who are permitted to sign in late with study periods, parents will still receive a text message if their child has not arrived at school when texts are sent. The school has a responsibility and duty of care to alert parents when their child is NOT yet on the school grounds, regardless of study periods.

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2018 close Wednesday April 5 2017

McCarthy Catholic College extends an invitation for students seeking enrolment into Year 7 in 2018. The **only** round of Year 7 applications for this year will close on Wednesday 5 April. **Fully completed application forms** and the **\$100 application fee** need to be lodged at the College on or before Wednesday 5 April. Interviews will be conducted throughout Term 2. Contact the office on 6761 0800 for an application pack and/or more information.

McCarthy Board

During 2017, the current constitutions of School Boards in local Catholic schools will change to reflect alternate governance structures and these bodies will ultimately be renamed 'School Advisory Councils'. The details of the change will be conveyed in coming

Diary Dates

10 March: HSC Music Workshop - Armidale
13 March: OLRCC Official Opening Ceremony
14 March: Year 8 Science & Engineering Challenge
14 March: Health Careers Forum
15 March: Year 9/10 Science & Engineering Challenge
15 March: G'Day USA Tour Meeting 6:00pm
16 March: Diocesan Touch – Inverell
21 March: Board Meeting and Association AGM
21 March: Diocesan U15 Rugby League
24 March: Stock Judging Excursion
25 March: Tamworth Show
30 March: Year 12 Agriculture Excursion
31 March: NSWCCC Swimming
31 March: Inter-school Theatre Sports
4 April: Warraymalaya Retreat
5 April: Year 7 2018 Enrolment Applications close
7 April: Term 1 concludes

newsletters. One of the more significant changes is the change of date for the Annual General Meeting. Previously held in March, all schools will now shift their AGM meetings to the November of each year. The McCarthy School Board will meet this month on March 21 to determine whether members will continue on during the interim period until November or setup interim positions for current members. Even as we transition to these new governance structures, parents and carers who may be interested in joining the School Board in 2017 are still encouraged to speak with Mr Adam Green - School Board Chair. Contact details can be obtained from the School Office.

McCarthy Association Annual General Meeting – 21 March

The Annual General Meeting for the McCarthy Association will be held on Tuesday 21 March at 7:00pm in the staffroom. The enormous commitment of the current executive is to be commended. Please feel welcome to attend.

May your God go with you.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

MISSION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Liturgy and Prayer

On Ash Wednesday, McCarthy staff and students marked the beginning of Lent with a Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Ashes in the College Hall. The ashes were blessed at the 7:00am parish Mass at St Mary's by Fr Tom Shanahan and brought up to McCarthy immediately after. A total of thirteen students assisted with reading and setting up for the liturgy.

Caritas

On Friday 3 March, Year 11 and 12 Catholic Studies students were privileged to hear the life story of Semiti from Fiji who workshopped with the students to present how, through Caritas Australia, the \$1 given as charity becomes social justice for the people of Fiji. He presented a very different reality of Fiji to the one many Australians have, as a travel and resort destination. On behalf of the students and teachers involved I would like to thank Mr Bruce Stewart and Mr Patrick Mahony for bringing Semiti to McCarthy.

St Agnes Conference

At the conference meeting this week, students voted unanimously to support the 'Assist a Student' program. This is a program of St Vincent de Paul in Australia and is designed to provide education funds for students across partner countries in Asia and the Pacific. The students agreed that the \$387.00 raised at the St Vinnies' BBQ at the swimming carnival will go towards signing up for this program.

Mrs Cate Allen – Mission and Spiritual Formation Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Year 7 Camp

On Monday, February 27, Year 7 students departed for the Forster Outdoor Education camp, accompanied by nine teachers; Mr Davy, Mrs Burt, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Bryant, Mr Donnelly, Mr Meppem, Mr Rindo, Mr Denton and Mr Walker.

Over the next three days, activities included team work challenge, high ropes, raft building, giant swing, dual flying fox, the waterslide, the mud run, a games night, and commando night, eventually won by the students.

In spite of the wet and stormy weather, the students continued to keep their spirits high with the encouragement of staff and camp leaders and went about conquering their fears with a number of girls (and boys) screaming and crying all the way up the Giant Swing, and, all the way down. The mud run was easily the least pleasurable activity for the students.

On the final night, the campers and staff were divided into groups in which they had to attempt a number of challenges in pairs. The broomstick challenge proved too difficult for the male competitors, however, the female gymnasts excelled in this area. There were balancing, reflex, bottle flipping and core strength challenges which made for a night of amusement and fun. The staff team was quick to remind everyone that the night was all about participation, not winning.

The male and female 'Campsters' for each group, as nominated by staff and Camp leaders for their leadership, reliability, encouragement, being exceptional team players throughout the week and displaying the McCarthy qualities of Care, Concern and Respect for others, were awarded to:

Group 1: Miller Lloyd, Group 2: Georgie Hannan, Group 3: Elissa Groth, Group 4: Anika Higgins, Group 5: Cameron Simon, Group 6: Ella Mitchell.

Highly commended were:

Mikani Ward, Emma Percy, Rebeka Boschma, Elih Griffiths and Angus Wallace.

Students were asked to describe their Forster experience in nine words or less. Some of the recurring themes were: fun, enjoyable, hard, exciting, testing, out of comfort zone, funny, cool, heights, awesome, unreal, wet, challenging, ace and thumbs up.

All of the Year 7 students in attendance appeared to really enjoy their Forster Outdoor Education experience. Thank you to all the instructors who had to put up with such a loud bunch of excited teenagers, and to all the teachers who came along to make this amazing camp possible. Well done to all of Year 7 who attended the camp, for making it a memorable trip.



Mr Andrew Davy – Year 7 Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Annual General Meeting

The McCarthy Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 March. We look forward to seeing you for an 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. We welcome new parents to join for a fun filled year of fundraising and social activities.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The start of Term 1 has been an active one with Preliminary (Year 11) students finalising their subject choices and Year 9 students settling into their elective choices. All changes are now finalised.

Assessment Schedules

Our assessment schedules have been published on the website. Please go to the student assessment section and record the dates into your calendar. I have received a number of phone calls from parents enquiring when there is an 'assessment free period' at the College. The nature of teaching and learning is ongoing. Teachers are continually formulating judgements about students learning and their ability to demonstrate they are meeting the outcomes of a course; content is being delivered and practised every day. Absenteeism does impact on teaching and learning, so there is no 'good time' to be away.

Learning

Over the coming weeks in Year Meetings, I will be encouraging students to think about their learning and the choices they make in order to maximise their experiences in the classroom and beyond. I sincerely hope that students value learning and as they journey through this year, enjoy the opportunities that arise to learn, grow and improve. Students can experiment with new ways to learn, revise or do things that they have not attempted before, such as play an instrument in front of an audience, speak in front of a crowd, create a textile piece or even raise money for a charity. School is a great place to be and I encourage all students to have a go!

Year 12

This term will certainly be a busy one for Year 12 students. As well as covering new topics, doing homework and completing assessments, students also need to set aside time to go over work from last term. It is essential that students spend time revising their work, firstly within a few days of learning the information, then later on; time must be spent studying the material on a regular basis in order to commit it to long term memory. In order to adequately prepare, please encourage your son or daughter to set some time aside for revision. We understand that there are ongoing assessment tasks to complete, but in order to reach their potential, students will need to commit extra time to their study.



Update Contact Details

Could I please remind families to update your details with our administration staff so that all reports are sent to the correct email address. Our first Interim Report will be sent in Week 10 via email.

SBAT

Congratulations to Anastasia Sellers who is undertaking her School Based Apprenticeship in Certificate III in Retail at McDonalds, South Tamworth. In this photo is: Raelene Hoy, Industry Training Consultant - Western NSW Apprenticeship Support Australia, Emily Crompton and Anastasia Sellers at the sign up.

*Mrs Raelene Maxworthy
Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

CAREERS NEWS

On Wednesday 1 March, approximately eighty Year 12 students attended the **Regional University Roadshow** held in the Rosary Centre. Students listened to presentations from Southern Cross University and Charles Sturt University. Current students from each of the universities also spoke and our students heard an overview of the university application process and what needs to be considered when thinking of studying at university. They also heard about the advantages of studying at a regional university, including smaller class sizes and cheaper accommodation, when compared to the city options and what each of these universities has to offer our students.



Short lunchtime Talks in the AV Room 12:50pm – 1:05pm

Last week I showed a group of students how to access and use a resource called Wirl Careers.

Following are the next few planned talks which will be held in the AV Room. They are open to all interested students.

- Friday 10 March: Teaching
- Friday 17 March: Engineering
- Friday 25 March: Apprenticeship

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

G'DAY USA TOUR 2018/2019 - Information Evening Wednesday 15 March at 6:00pm



We are looking forward to establishing our eighth G'Day USA tour group for January 2018 and/or 2019. The 20 day tour to the West Coast of the United States is held in the January school holidays, visiting Los Angeles, San Francisco and a chosen host city. As an initial source to see the highlights of the program, you may like to visit <http://www.ewt.com.au/>. Any interested students and parents are invited to attend an information evening to be held at the College. We will welcome Ms Hayley Mitchell from Educational World Travel to talk about the program offered. The meeting will then elaborate on the support provided by the company and the teacher chaperones before and during travel. Students will be able to access a pamphlet on the tour at school, please RSVP if you wish to attend the information evening via email.

*Mrs Fiona O'Neill
foneill@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au*

SPORT

Swimming Carnival

The annual McCarthy Catholic College Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 23 February at Scully Pool. I would like to congratulate all students who were present for their participation and enthusiasm, and the staff at McCarthy who assisted at the carnival in their various roles.

A special mention must go to our Year 12 cohort who ensure that their last carnivals at the College are memorable ones. Well done.

Results from the 2017 carnival are as follows:

Age Champions:

Girls

- Hayley Morris
- Clementine Monet
- Daisy George
- Mia Newman
- Lyndell Boschma
- Eleanor George, Molly Johns

Boys

- Miller Lloyd
- Rueben Shepherd
- Joe Mitchell
- Hamish Sparke
- Edward George
- Jake Mitchell

House results were as follows:

- MacKillop – 1082
- Dominic – 1080
- Chisholm – 1016
- Edmund Rice – 786



Again, thank you to all who attended this year's carnival, and congratulations to all our Age Champions.

Diocesan Swimming

The following students competed at the Diocesan Swimming Trials in Moree on Wednesday 8 March:

Kilian Apen, Xane Bateup, Lyndell Boschma, Rebekah Boschma, Kathryn Burke, Edward George, Will George, Daisy George, Lucy Hamlin, Molly Johns, Miller Lloyd, Jake Mitchell, Clementine Monet, Hayley Morris, Mia Newman, Dougal O'Reilly, Emma Percy, Eoin Shepherd, Rueben Shepherd, Hamish Sparke, Jack Stanton, Lucy-Kate Thompson, Abby Wakely. Results will appear in the next newsletter.

Successful students from the Diocesan Trials will then be eligible to compete in the NSWCCC Swimming Championships held in Sydney on Friday 31 March 2017.

Hockey

Congratulations to Billie Mitchell and Nick O'Connor who were selected in the NSW State Under 15 Girls' team and NSW Under 15 Boys' team respectively to compete at Hockey Australia's National Championships at Sydney in April. They were selected from three separate trial weekends held in Newcastle (2) and Bathurst.