

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,

Lenten Prayer

Dear Jesus, open my eyes to the glory that you displayed before Peter, James and John in your transfiguration on Mount Tabor. Let that glory reign in my heart always. Amen.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.
St Dominic, pray for us.
Blessed Edmund Rice, pray for us.

Reflection

The Transfiguration is one of the most wonderful displays of God's glory and love for his Son. He desired to show us that the Kingdom of God, which Jesus preached, would be characterised by glory. In light of Jesus' crucifixion, which is to follow soon after his Transfiguration, we are led by the Holy Spirit to understand that God's glory is also shown through self-giving love, a love that 'embraces death'. This is why during Lent we practise acts of self-denial; dying to self for others. During Lent and always we should endeavour to stay close to Jesus and not flee like the Apostles did during his trial and crucifixion. We can do this by attending Mass, acts of charity, praying before Him during the Eucharist and forgiving others as well as confessing our own sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Lent

As we continue through the Lenten season it is important for us to take stock of our lives and particularly our relationship with God. We are offered the opportunity to fix problems and to stop and reconnect with various elements of our lives we often sadly neglect. We are called to deepen our connection with God through PRAYER, to connect with others who may be less fortunate through ALMSGIVING and to reconnect with ourselves and our blessings through FASTING. This season is one of preparation – working on ourselves to be ready for when Christ returns to be ready for the joys of Easter.

We have been fortunate over the past weeks to have engaged in many activities that have strengthened our commitment to ALMSGIVING. I thank the St Vincent de Paul St Agnes Chapter for their efforts in coordinating a bake sale and a St Patrick's Day themed multi-day. Mentor Groups continue to raise funds each morning that go towards supporting the Diocesan charity – Caritas. All of these activities remind us that we are a faith community. The remainder of Term 1 allows us to strengthen our individual and communal relationship with God who has blessed us with so much.

Official Opening of the Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre

I include below an excerpt from my address that offered a vote of thanks to all who contributed to the design, construction and completion of this wonderful new learning facility.

"If you build it they will come! I have always liked that concept. Not just because of its significance in the movie 'Field of Dreams,' but because of the truth that can be perceived in that simple statement...if you build it people will most definitely come. But I am not talking about baseball diamonds here... I am talking about our church. A bigger church than the one we now have... and not just for our ego but for the people of God. I know that there are many churches in New England but they don't all have to look like the Cathedral. Here at McCarthy there is a church. It's founded and built amongst the students and staff of this wonderful college. And it is growing because we have the people who believe in "going the distance".

Former Principal, Mrs Kate Rayment's vision was not some fleeting whim or some crazy 'Ray Kinsella' – like dream. For a start Mr Joyce is not going to throw \$2.1 million worth of Government funding to a crazy dream. Kate knows as I do that to build our church we've got to have music and song and happy young men and women learning in a place where God is not only present but palpable in their work because their teachers "go the distance". I trust that you get some sense today as our special guests that there are great things at play here at McCarthy because there are simply great people here. And those great people help grow great kids.

So our "Field of Dreams" – our church – our community – Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre, is ready and just like Ray Kinsella, I'm not worried because "Build it and they will come!"

Similarly, it is never the role of a Principal to look too closely at the present. In fact the role of a Principal is to look far into the future and prepare their schools and their students now for a future not entirely evident at the time. Kate Rayment is that sort of visionary Principal. Her foresight to support the design and implementation of such a state-of-the-art facility will not only allow the HSC students of 2017 to learn and aspire to perform at an elite level, it will provide a platform for this year's Year 7 students to graduate in 2022 ready, willing and able to take on that future. As representatives of this future, College Captains, Katherine Sleiman and Jack Awad, presented a small token to Kate to thank her for her inspired contribution to the past, present and future growth of the fine arts here at McCarthy and around the Tamworth and New England district.

As Principal of this great community, I would like to conclude by thanking you all for your patience and support. To the Board Chair, Mr Adam Green, and fellow Board members, I thank you for your counsel and guidance over the past two years. I particularly cite the teaching staff, support staff and grounds staff whose patience was tested at a number of levels as we worked at ways to finalise

Diary Dates

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
14 April: Good Friday
24 April: **PUPIL FREE DAY**
25 April: ANZAC Day
26 April: Term 2 commences for students

the project without having too much impact on the day-to-day running of the school. Their willingness to remain flexible as timeframes blew out was heartening and appreciated. Special thanks also to the Parent Association who have jumped in with great gusto and enthusiasm to provide top quality catering resources for the servery funded by their innovative fundraising.

The decision to name the new Cultural Centre in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary was made to recognise the unique contribution of the teachers and students of Our Lady of the Rosary College, where the Dominican Sisters and Christian Brothers worked side by side, to make quality Catholic education a reality for Tamworth students. We have images of these charisms permanently positioned either side of our stage; The Dominican Cross – representing the founder of the Dominican order; Blessed Edmund Rice – the Founder of the Christian Brothers; and the old gates from the Priory are located in the gardens outside.

The Christian Brothers had a dream for Catholic education in Tamworth.

The Dominican Sisters had a dream for Catholic education in Tamworth.

I'm pretty sure they would be mighty proud of the direction that dream has taken here in Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre.

We have built it. Now let them come!

And a final and heartfelt personal thank you to all who made the actual day such a special and memorable occasion.



Staffing

Farewell and thanks to Mrs Vanessa Christakos for her contribution to the HSIE faculty over the past year. We also welcome Mr Frank Patricks to the staff as a new member of the TAS faculty.

Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the McCarthy Association was held on Tuesday night. I would like to thank outgoing President, Ms Megan Jameson, for her contribution to the College. I look forward to working with the new committee. Please see further details in Parent Information in this newsletter.

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.

May your God go with you.

Mr Geoff McManus – Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Each week, we highlight different safety policies. To date in 2017 we have covered anaphylaxis and asthma protocols, sun safe procedures, hand hygiene and 'cough etiquette'.

Evacuation procedures must be rehearsed annually in order to familiarise the school community with what to do should an emergency arise. In Weeks 6 and 7, Mentor teachers spoke to students about the importance of such activities and the need to follow staff instructions. I am pleased to report that the 'evacuation' held this week, occurred smoothly and I thank everyone for their cooperation in this important task.

Mrs Sally Sparke – Assistant Principal

MISSION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Caritas

Our students continue to contribute to Caritas each morning during Mentor Group; to date the total money raised is \$563.80. In addition to this, the St Agnes Conference organised a 'green' mufti day for St Patrick's Day to raise some additional funds for their 'Assist a Student' and 'Twinings' projects, which they have elected to support this year.

Lenten Group

The McCarthy Lenten group continues to meet at 7:00pm in the Meeting Room each Wednesday during Lent. It is not too late to join the group and experience the friendly, enjoyable faith sharing which characterises our weekly gatherings.

Eucharist

All Year groups, except Year 8 have celebrated the Eucharist with Fr Joe in the Theatre of OLORCC. This has proven to be a very good venue for our Year Masses; the tiered seating in particular offers the students a very clear view of the altar and what goes on there during the Consecration. Year 8 will have their Mass on Tuesday 28 March and then during Weeks 9 and 10 Year 9 classes will celebrate Reconciliation as part of their unit of work on Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments.

Mrs Cate Allen – Mission and Spiritual Formation Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Student Leadership Council Induction

Congratulations to the following students who received their SLC badges at assembly:

Year 11: Matthew Gambrell, Eleanor George, Doughal O'Reilly, Tom Rindo, Dakota Skewes, Abbie Wieland.

Year 10: Abigail Kelly, Billie Mitchell, Ryan Thompson, Nathan Watson.

Year 9: Safia Arranz, Michelle Coates, Jose Malaga, Jim Zell.

Year 8: Tully Munro, J-Lee Nash, Chyna Pennell, Benjamin Sharp.

We look forward to working with these students.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to Izzabella Brett and her family following the passing of her grandfather.



Bullying No Way Day

On Friday 18 March we celebrated *Bullying No Way Day* at McCarthy. Staff and students came together to show their support and took part in musical performances and activities during lunch time. We were lucky enough to have the local Headspace team come and take part in this special day.

Mrs Libby Molony – Pastoral Care Coordinator

PARENT INFORMATION

Association Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 21 March. The Executive Committee is:

President: Mrs Kim Pearson

Vice Presidents: Mrs Jacqueline Fulwood and Mrs Maree Betts

Secretary: Mrs Carol Reed

Treasurer: Mrs Laura Hughes

Board Representative: Mrs Carol Reed

Committee: Mrs Tania Roworth, Mr Grant Lee, Mrs Wendy Lee, Mr Ken Macpherson, Ms Kylie Evans, Mrs Rebecca Evans, Ms Megan Jameson, Mrs Maria Creigh, Mrs Lesa Sellers and Ms Rosemary Chatwood.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 21 June at 7:15pm in the staff common room. All welcome.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Term 1 is certainly a busy one at McCarthy and it has presented students with many opportunities to grow and learn. Whether it be excursions, UNE experience days, or playing in the school band, there are fantastic opportunities to receive high quality educational experiences in our dynamic school.

OverDrive

Our librarians have been busy showing students how to access OverDrive, which is the selected ebook platform for schools in the Armidale Diocese. Ebooks can be loaded onto various devices eg mobile phone, iPad, tablet or desktop computer. All students need to do is to download the OverDrive app. The ebook collection can then be accessed through the school's Library homepage - Oliver.

Students must be logged into Oliver to download their item. Students will have also noticed the fantastic display of high quality magazines in the library to suit all reading tastes and interests.

NAPLAN

With NAPLAN on the horizon, the following link will provide information about the lead up and right through until results are received later in the year. There are also sample questions available for you and your child.

Letters have been sent to Year 7 and 9 families.

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/naplan/info-for-parents.html>

ICAS Competitions

I encourage students to enter the ICAS competitions by returning their notes and payment before the closing date of Friday 31 March. Spare notes are available at the office.

*Mrs Raelene Maxworthy
Teaching and Learning Coordinator*

CAREERS NEWS



Recent events included:

- **Health Careers Forum:** fifteen students in Year 12 attended the event hosted by the University of Newcastle, Department of Rural Health, along with several hundred other students from Tamworth and the surrounding area. They were able to learn about various careers in the health and medicine areas and attended workshops.

- lunchtime talks on careers in **Teaching and Engineering**. The next talk will be on Friday 25 March covering **apprenticeships** and what students in Years 10-12 can do to boost their chances of successfully gaining an apprenticeship.

- a visit by the **University of Newcastle's Faculty of Business and Law** to talk to interested students.

- a visit by **St Leo's College at the University of Queensland** to talk to interested students.



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

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE



Congratulations to the students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who took part in the Science and Engineering Challenge held at TRECC on Tuesday 14 (Year 7/8 team) and Wednesday 15 March (Years 9/10 team). This year the Year 9/10 team did our school proud by placing first in the 'Bridge Build' and 'Confounding Communications' challenges which helped earn McCarthy an overall 3rd placing for the days competition. We overcame injuries, broken straws, falling cats on dogs, which were sitting on furniture designed by the team (it's ok, the animals weren't real) to give each activity our best.

Our Year 7/8 team gained valuable teamwork skills and knowledge, challenging themselves throughout the day by building bridges,

bionic hands and buggies. The Year 7/8 team placed 4th overall, with many students already excited about next year's competition.

A special thank must also go to Mrs Godden with the Year 9/10 team, Mrs Walsh and Mrs Bearup with the Year 7/8 team. By all accounts, all students had a very enjoyable experience. They worked together extremely well in teams to solve the challenges put before them and were exceptional ambassadors for our school. Well done to all. Look out 2018 competition!



Mrs Melissa Lees – Science Teacher

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

The McCarthy Bands have had a busy start to the year with performances at Open Day, The Official Opening of the Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre and Assembly. We currently have over forty members in the Senior Concert Band.

This week, the 2017 Junior Band received their instruments. With twenty-four enthusiastic members already (and more to come!) we need your help.

We would love donations (or inexpensive sales!) of more instruments.

Do you have an old, unused and no longer loved instrument hiding under a bed, or in a cupboard?

Would it like a new home and person to care for it?

If yes, please contact Mrs Lane, or just send it into the college.

These could include trumpets, trombones, horns, euphoniums, baritones, saxophones, clarinets, flutes, violins, cellos etc.

Thank you in anticipation.

Mrs Lisa Lane – Band Coordinator

TAMWORTH REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

2017 has seen the development of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council; Molly Moroney and Katherine Sleiman, both students in Year 12, were successful in their application for membership.

The Tamworth Regional Youth Council will provide a platform for young people to gain traction with their inspiring ideas, and in doing so, provide them with the skills and support to make a lasting positive change. Youth Council meetings will be run monthly working towards the development and implementation of various concepts and ideas directly from youth.

Molly and Katherine will join another seven members and serve a term of 12 months where they will connect with various education, training, health, safety and support service providers within our local community. The students will utilise and develop leadership skills to give issues that affect youth in our community a voice. Molly and Katherine have indicated that this is an incredible opportunity for them and they are both looking forward to the challenge.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill – Year 12 Coordinator



Lions Youth of the Year 2016-2017

Youth of the Year is designed to encourage student interest in leadership and the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in the community. A high level of academic, leadership, sporting, public speaking and citizenship achievement is sought in its potential winners. By emphasising these qualities it hopes to provide outstanding role models for the youth of Australia and an overall increase in the confidence of young men and women.

Two students from Year 12, Jack Croake and Jaydon Merrick recently participated in the regional judging hosted by the Manilla Lions Club. Students were given a personal interview and competed in a public speaking session, both performed admirably. Jaydon was judged as the overall winner at the regional level, presenting a speech on Journalism. Jaydon will now be eligible to participate in the District competition in Coffs Harbour later this month.

We wish Jaydon all the best in this next level of competition.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill – Year 12 Coordinator

EUROPE 2018



Deposit Due Friday 31 March

Thank you to everyone who attended our Information Evening two weeks ago. Thank you also to those who have returned their Booking Forms.

Our next step, for those who are wanting to go on the trip, is to return the form to the Office with the deposit (credit card number, cheque etc) before Friday 31 March. These will be held at the school until that date. If we receive enough interest for the numbers needed for the tour to go ahead by that date, then the forms and deposits are forwarded to Academy Travel. If there are not enough forms received by 31 March, then the forms and monies are returned.

If you are wishing to be part of this amazing adventure, please return the Booking Form to the office by the due date. For further information, please contact me at school on 67610800 or via email.

Mrs Susan Barrett

G'DAY USA TOUR 2019

We are looking forward to establishing our eighth G'Day USA tour group for January 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. Students will be able to access a pamphlet on the tour at school. Please contact me via email for further information.

Mrs Fiona O'Neill

foneill@mccarthy.nsw.edu.au



SPORT

Diocesan Swimming

On Wednesday 8 March, students who were successful at the McCarthy Catholic College Swimming Carnival travelled to Moree to compete in the Diocesan Swimming Trials.

Congratulations to Daisy George, who was named the Diocesan 14 Years Girls' Age Champion.

The following students are now eligible to compete at the NSWCCC Swimming Championships to be held in Sydney on Friday 31 March 2017:

Molly Johns: 17+ Girls' 50m Freestyle, 17+ Girls' 50m Breaststroke, Senior Girls' 100m Breaststroke

Edward George: 16 Boys' 50m Freestyle, Intermediate Boys' 100m Backstroke, 16 Boys' 50m Backstroke, Intermediate Boys' 200m Individual Medley

Kathryn Burke: 15 Girls' 50m Freestyle

Miller Lloyd: 12 Boys' 50m Freestyle

Daisy George: 14 Girls' 50m Butterfly, 14 Girls' 50m Breaststroke, Junior Girls' 200m Individual Medley, Junior Girls' 100m Breaststroke

Lyndell Boschma: 16 Girls' 50m Breaststroke, Intermediate Girls' 100m Breaststroke

Western NSWCCC Football Trials

On Thursday 16 March, Liam Wood, Scott Flanagan and Riley Carr travelled to Bathurst to trial for the Western NSWCCC Football side. All three students were successful in being selected. They will now travel to Glenwood on the 30 and 31 May to trial for selection for the NSWCCC side at the NSWCCC Football Championships.

Diocesan Under 15 Rugby League Trials

On Tuesday 21 March, Thomas Croake, Liam Fox, Cameron Lane and Liam Ball trialled to be selected for the Diocesan U15 Rugby League side. Thomas Croake was successful in being selected on the day, and will now travel to Smithtown on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April to trial for the Northern NSW U15 Rugby League side.

Mr Matt Feltrin – Sports Coordinator

Netball

The Annual General Meeting of the McCarthy Netball Club was held on Wednesday 8 March.

The committee for 2017 season is as follows:

President: Mrs Lesa Sellers

Vice President: Mr Damian Kenniff

Secretary: Mrs Kylee Nash

Treasurer: Mrs Fiona Downey

General Members: Mrs Leasa Turner, Mrs Deanne Lesslie, Mrs Tracey Ellicott, Mr Darren McKinnon.

We thank the outgoing committee for all their hard work during the previous seasons.

The 2017 Netball season commences on Saturday 29 April at the Tamworth Sports Dome.

**Lego wanted!**

Do you have unwanted Lego?

We have the solution for you!!!! St Edward's School would like to take any unused Lego off your hands. If you can help our school and donate any unwanted Lego please contact Amanda Sheridan.

asheridan@stedwardstamworth.catholic.edu.au

We will happily pick up or you can drop off Lego at St Edward's or McCarthy.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

“A Study of the Gospels”

27 March/3 April/8 and 15 May

all Mondays/10:00am [till 11:30am]

at: McCarthy Catholic College

[Our Lady of the Rosary Cultural Centre]



by: Andrew Wood, MA, MA [Research], BEd

Director of St John Centre for Biblical Studies

Diocesan Coordinator: Evangelisation and Catechesis

Andrew has given numerous courses and talks on Scripture, Catholic theology, and philosophy in the Sydney region. He has been working in the field of catechetics and adult faith formation since 1998. He received his first Masters in Theology from Holy Apostle's College and Seminary, Connecticut, USA, and his second Masters in Theology (by Research) from the Australia Catholic University. He received his Bachelor of Education, specialising in Religious Education, from the Australian Catholic University in 1997. For thirteen years, Andrew studied the writings of the great medieval philosopher and theologian, St Thomas Aquinas, at Sydney's Centre for Thomistic Studies.

Andrew has had ten years experience of teaching Religious Education at secondary level. He has also worked for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney as the Convenor of the Catholic Chaplaincy at Macquarie University for four years. In this role, Andrew worked to evangelise and catechise staff and students at the University. He has tutored Philosophical Ethics at Notre Dame University in Sydney and has lectured courses on Scripture and theology at Sydney's Catholic Adult Education Centre (CAEC).

Since 2003 Andrew has given parish-level courses in Scripture, theology, and philosophy. Andrew co-founded the St John's Centre for Biblical Studies in order to promote biblical literacy amongst the Catholic laity and clergy.

Andrew is currently writing his doctoral dissertation at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney, on *The Theology of Divine Revelation in the writings of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) and Saint Thomas Aquinas*.