As this is the last newsletter for the year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community, especially staff, students and parents for their wonderful, warm and selfless efforts this year on so many fronts. Such efforts have help us continue to build our reputation as a caring and concerned community and give us a strong foundation for the future. I wish all the best to those leaving our school community this year.

I wish all a very Happy and Holy Christmas. I encourage everyone to make a special effort to attend one of the Masses around Christmas day to celebrate the birth of Christ and celebrate the eucharist with other members of our school community. Mass times are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Michael Croke
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Happy & Holy Christmas
I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone part of the McAuley family a very happy and holy Christmas and an enjoyable well earned break. Thank you for all your support and efforts throughout 2014. I would like to say thank you and farewell to our Year 6 students. To the families who will no longer have students at McAuley I would like to wish you well and thank you for the contribution you have made to our school. Finally to our dedicated teachers and staff we have once again reached the end of another very busy year! Thank you, it is your dedication, time effort and love for the students that ensures the good name Catherine McAuley will continue. Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

Steve Maguire

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Advent
This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday in Advent, and we light the rose coloured candle as a sign of hope. In this weekend’s Gospel from Matthew we continue to hear from John the Baptist. He is imprisoned and sends messengers to ask Jesus if he really is the Messiah. Jesus’ response is to list all the things that he was doing. This list fits perfectly with what the prophets foretold would happen when the Messiah appeared, giving John the answer he needed. As we draw closer to Christmas, the themes of Advent; anticipation, preparedness and hope, are evident. The celebration of the Nativity is confirmation that, like John, our hope is not misplaced. This weekend’s readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

Year 6 Farewell Mass
Congratulations to all Year 6 on their Farewell Mass and dinner last night. It was a lovely Mass and a great way to conclude their primary schooling.

Christmas Hampers
Thank you to all who have sent in items for the Christmas Hampers for St Vincent de Paul. Once again we are asking for donations to assist those in our community for whom Christmas can be a very difficult time. Could all students please bring in at least one item for these hampers. They will be collected in classes and become part of the Offertory at our final school Mass.

Christmas Mass Times
Dates and times for Christmas Masses and Reconciliation will be sent this week on a separate flyer. Please take note of these times, as they are slightly different to normal weekend Mass times.

Thank You!
It has been a very big year with many things asked of families. Thank you for all you have given to our school and for your generosity towards our many fundraising activities. I pray you have a very happy and Holy Christmas and a restful time over the break.

God Bless and Happy Christmas!

Robyn Petty
WANTED - Shepherds & Angels

At the Christmas Masses we encourage your children to come dressed as Shepherds and Angels. This will add colour to our Christmas Liturgies and help the children to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. At the Vigil Mass at Mercy Hall, they will process with Mary, Joseph & baby Jesus and form a living crib.

Sr Helen for the Liturgy Committee

PRIMARY COORDINATOR

As the school year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful school community for their support and encouragement throughout 2013. It has been a privilege to witness the progress made by each and every student this year and I look forward to our school community growing together in 2014. I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a happy and safe holiday.

Clare Miller

LIBRARY

Please return all library books to the library by tomorrow (Thursday 12 December). Thankyou.

Elizabeth Sergeant & Catherine Bishenden

MUSIC & DRAMA

Band 2014
If you would like your child to join to join the school Training Band, please sign and return the “Band Registration” form that was sent home last week.

Band and Choir Performances
As part of the activities on Friday (13th) following the Final School Mass, the combined bands and Senior Choir will be performing in the Music Room at lunchtime. Please come and enjoy some relaxing entertainment.

Christmas Eve Mass – Singers Wanted
Children, if you will be attending Mass at Mercy Hall, James Sheahan Catholic High School, 6.00pm, Christmas Eve, then please feel most welcome to join the Children’s Choir.

Change to Band Rehearsal
In preparation for Friday’s performance all students in both the Training and Concert Bands need to bring their instruments this THURSDAY.

- Training Band Rehearsal 1.15pm – 2.15pm
- Concert Band Rehearsal 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Anne Allan
BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations!

Daniela Anastasia  Cooper Lawry  Amelia Hogben  Simingaye Banda
Bree-Anne Petty  Mitchell Anderson  Molly Edwards  Thomas Madigan
Elizabeth Hazzard  Imogen Jenner  Clary Annis-Brown  Sean Donato
Lucy Johnston  Riley Allen  Nicholas Bennett  Jaiden Collins
Lachlan Wykes  Jade Edwards  Emilia Takiari  Michael McAtamney
Jack Hunter  Lachlan Newman  Cooper Agland  Jack Crombie
Aidan Lenaghan  Lance Milne  William Thomas  Analea Bevan
Ally-Rose Madden  Mitchell Crean  Antonia Lander  Charlize Spurr

Angel Tom

TUCKSHOP

Roster – Commencing Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 December 2013

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(Wednesday 18th last Day of School for all students)

CLASS ROOM PRESENTATIONS

Friday, 13 December 2013:

11.30am - 12.00 noon  Year 5
11.45am - 12.15 pm   Year 6
12.00noon - 12.30pm  K
12.15pm - 12.45 pm   Year 1
12.30pm - 1.00pm     Year 2

LUNCH BREAK (Picnic outside the music room with entertainment from the school bands)

2.00pm - 2.30pm  Year 3
2.15pm - 2.45    Year 4

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy
MINI VINNIES AND YEAR 4T VISIT TO ST FRANCIS AGED CARE

On Wednesday of Week 8 the Mini Vinnies Group along with 4T, Mrs Niven, Mrs Mulligan and Mrs Perry paid a visit to the elderly residents of St Francis Aged Care. It was lovely to see the students share some Christmas cheer with the elderly and it certainly made everyone’s day a brighter one! They sang Christmas carols and shared some Christmas stories. Some of the residents were able to read along with the children and it was wonderful to see the children relate to them with such kindness, love and patience.

Everyone at St Francis loved the visit so much we were encouraged to make a booking for next year! Well done children in living the Gospel in the season of Advent.
CHRISTMAS MASSES - 2013

Christmas Eve - TUESDAY 24th December
• NO 8.00am Mass at St Mary’s Church
• 6.00pm James Sheahan High School Mercy Hall, Anson Street, Orange.
• 8.00pm St Mary's Church, Park Street
• 10.00pm St Joseph's Church, Byng Street

Christmas Day - WEDNESDAY 25th December
• 7.30am St Joseph's Church
• 8.00am St Brendan’s Mullion Creek (outdoors)
• 9.00am St Joseph's Church
• 9.30am St Mary's Church

***NO Evening Mass on Christmas Day***

THURSDAY 26th December – Feast of St Stephen
• 8.30am St Mary’s Church

SACRAMENT OF PENCEANCE
• 2nd Rite of Penance-St Joseph’s Church
  - Monday, 23rd December at 7.30pm

• 1st Rite of Penance-St Joseph’s Church
  - Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th Dec. at 12.30pm to 1.00pm