PRINCIPAL

The end of the school year is very quickly creeping up and as a school we are all involved in all those things that involve "closing down the shop for the summer”. However just like bakers and street sweepers some parts of the organisation will continue on. During the holiday period we will be putting in new computer cabling that will make our school internet speed much faster and with increased capacity. As well we have a program of painting and new carpet taking place. We sometimes envy those in the northern hemisphere who will not encounter holidays or the end of the school year but can simply get ready for Christmas!

Following interviews last week I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Lucy Connor as full time Year 6 teacher for 2014. This will mean Mrs Hazelton will be sharing a Year 5 class with Mr Williams next year.

On other appointment matters I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Kate Budworth as Teacher’s Aide on KC for 2014.

Kate has been working in the administration office in recent times and we welcome her to another facet of our school. Kate will be replacing Mrs Vanessa Colquhoun who is pursuing her teaching career. We thank Vanessa for the wonderful job she has done.

Michael Croke

THE CROSS

In vain can we hope to be united to God in any other way than by the Cross.

Catherine McAuley
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Student of the Week
Congratulations to the following who were awarded student of the week: Lilly Hannelly, Koby Reid, Mia Sciuto, Charlene Bilal, Mark Jachi, Elle Johnson, Mitchell Price, Jerin Joe Singh, Makaya Wright, Hugh Vaughan, Mitchell Layzell, Mitchell Crean, Rowan McFarlane, Nyakot Malual, Isabella Bergmann, Lachlan Roberts, Tara Yeghoyan, Lachlan Englert, Taylah Guyer, Athena Bliss

Christmas Cheer
We are all getting very excited with Christmas fast approaching. Please do not send candy canes to school as they are often eaten at the wrong time and can lead to arguments in class or on the playground. They can be special treats to share at home.

Year 5 Leadership Morning
This Thursday Year 5 teachers and I will work with the Year 5 students on identifying Leadership qualities in others. The morning will identify leaders in our homes, schools, community, country and world. However the focus of the morning will be on Jesus as a leader. Following the session the Year 5 students and all teachers will vote for the 2014 McAuley Captains and Vice Captains. It is important to acknowledge that although four students receive official badges ALL YEAR 6 STUDENTS are considered leaders in our school and are expected to set a good example for all.

Rewards Day
As the year draws to an end the teachers are planning an end of year Reward Day:
- Kindergarten - To be confirmed in next weeks newsletter
- Year 1 - Year 3: - Movies and Adventure playground Tuesday, 10 December
- Year 4 – Tuesday, 17 December – Ten Pin Bowling
- Year 5 - Blayney Pool – Thursday, 12 December
- Year 6 - Burrendong Dam – Tuesday, 17 December

Any student who has been on a Level 4 during the year will not be eligible to attend the Rewards Day. Level 4 is an in school suspension where the student has been removed to work in the office or picked up from school for an indiscretion. Rewards are a major part of the Behavior Management Policy at McAuley. It is important that students are rewarded for displaying the expected behavior at school.

Year 6 Mass & Farewell Monday, 9 December
A reminder to the Year 6 parents to send in the $25 to help with costs of the evening. A committee of Year 6 parents has been formed to organise the celebration following the Mass. If you indicated that you can help you will be contacted soon. A big Thank you to the Year 5 parents who have offered to help serve and clean up on the night a note will be sent home closer to the date to inform you of the details.

Steve Maguire

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
The second purple Advent Candle - The Candle of Peace
(The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus)

Come, Lord Jesus,
Come and visit your people.
We await your coming.

The Season of Advent
This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday in the Church’s Season of Advent. In St Matthew’s Gospel this weekend we are introduced to John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin who was the one to proclaim the coming of the Son of God and show how the prophecies were to be fulfilled. John is the messenger sent by God to ‘do the groundwork’ preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. He appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. John was seen as a bit of a rebel, living on wild honey and locusts out in the wilderness. He didn’t conform to the expectations of the day. He offered people a challenge that made them slightly uncomfortable. This was a challenge that Jesus was to take up. As we continue our Advent journey what challenges are we facing? Have we taken time yet to start to prepare for Jesus to come to us at Christmas? Maybe this week we could spend a little time thinking about how we will “prepare the way of the Lord.”

Christmas Hampers
Thank you to those who have already sent in items for our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Each year we ask families to donate non-perishable food and Christmas items that can be placed in hampers for St Vincent de Paul to distribute around our Orange district to those who would normally not be in a position to celebrate Christmas. It would be wonderful if each child could bring in just one item to place in the hampers. This could be a tin of biscuits, pudding mix, Christmas decorations, etc, any non-perishable goods that can help to make it truly a Christ-filled celebration. Goods need to be into classrooms by Wednesday, 11 December, so they can be organised for our final Mass on the Friday.

Mini Vinnies and Kinder C
Congratulations to Mrs Mulligan, Mrs Niven, Mrs Croke and the students in KC and Mini Vinnies. They have been very busy recently spreading the Christmas Spirit with their visits to St Francis Aged Care Facility and the Calare Nursing Home. Some of the Mini Vinnies students entertained the St Francis Residents by performing Christmas Carols and reading Christmas books while others accompanied Mrs Croke and KC to Calare where they sang Carols, performed ‘The Nativity Play’ and gave the Residents a mural for their wall. From all accounts, both residents and staff of both Nursing Homes thoroughly enjoyed their visits.

More Christmas Cheer!
This week Year 6H and Year 2C are also off to some of our local Nursing homes to entertain the residents. Thank you to all these teachers and students on sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

Liturgies and Masses
Our End of Year Mass this year will be on Friday, 13 December at 9.30am. It has been a wonderful year and we have much to thank God for. At this Mass we will announce our School Captains for 2014 and present the Year 6 prizes. It would be great to have families join us for the Mass and then stay to see the children’s presentations in their classes after Recess.

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,

Robyn Petty
On Wednesday and Thursday of last week, Trish Aumuller and myself travelled to Cowra for a ShareCloud professional learning day. **ShareCloud is the new virtual learning environment for Bathurst Diocese Catholic Schools.** ShareCloud is powered by [Google Apps for Education](https://education.google.com/apps/) and provides a suite of core productivity tools such as Google Mail (Gmail), Google Calendar, and Google Contacts. ShareCloud allows teachers and students to create, share and collaborate online using powerful tools like Google Drive & Docs, Google Sites, Google Groups, Picasa, Blogger and much more, all in a secure shared learning environment. The possibilities for a virtual learning environment such as this are very exciting. Teachers have started to use the system throughout this year. We aim to continue to train teachers in the use of the learning tool throughout 2014 as well as begin to use it in classrooms for Years 3 to 6. More information will be made available to parents during next year including security and safety associated with the system.

**Classroom Presentation**

Our presentation day will take place on Friday, 13 December. At the conclusion of the Mass and Awards Ceremony, families are invited to join us for recess followed by a small presentation from each class. These presentations will take place in your child’s classroom. Please take note of the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.30am - 12.00noon</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am - 12.15pm</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00noon - 12.30pm</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15pm - 12.45pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm - 1.00pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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LUNCH BREAK (Picnic outside the music room with entertainment from the school bands)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm - 2.30pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15pm - 2.45</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
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**Clare Miller**

**LIBRARY**

As the end of the year is fast approaching it’s now time to return all Library books to the Library. If all books could be returned tomorrow (Thursday, 5 December) it would be appreciated. Years 1 & 2 Library bags will be kept at school over the Christmas holidays and will be in their new classrooms ready for 2014.

*We would like to thank Gemma Dwyer for her invaluable assistance with Book Club throughout 2013. She has worked tirelessly to co-ordinate the orders and ensure Book Club has run smoothly. We appreciate Gemma’s efforts very much.*

**Elizabeth Sergeant & Catherine Bishenden**
MUSIC & DRAMA

Band 2014

Last Friday information regarding Band membership for 2014 was distributed to all students in Year 2 and any other interested student. There is no compulsion to join but it is a wonderful opportunity if your child wishes to do so. Please be aware that a condition of joining the school band is that each student must attend private individual tuition to learn their instrument. Private arrangements are to be made directly to the Conservatorium, PCYC or any instrumental teacher of your choice rather than through the school. If you wish your child to join our band program, please return the white Band Registration Form by the end of term.

Choir

Our Senior Choir enjoyed a fruitful session at James Sheahan Catholic High School last week in preparation for this Friday evenings performance at St. Francis Aged Care. They will spread a Little Christmas Joy to the residents during their annual Christmas Party. The students are to hear their summer uniform and Santa hats and meet Mrs Aumuller and myself on the lawn at the home at 5.45pm.

Thank you Parents for your support. The students will need to be collected at 7.00pm. You are welcome to stay and enjoy the music.

Anne Allan

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lucinda Stewart</th>
<th>Joshua Coleman</th>
<th>Eve Davison</th>
<th>Rowan McFarlane</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lara Moriarty</td>
<td>Olivia Tilston</td>
<td>Finn Littlefield</td>
<td>Harry Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Nyibol Got</td>
<td>Milan Shaji</td>
<td>Thomas Hogben</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sam Littlefield</td>
<td>Emily Wykes</td>
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TUCKSHOP

Roster – Commencing Monday 9 to Friday 13 December 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>9.30am-11.30am</th>
<th>11.30am-2.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>D Draper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>G Dwyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>A Karowiak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>K Daniel</td>
<td>F Fabar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>RBennett &amp; R Matthews</td>
<td>R French, M Vaughan, S Clarke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy