FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is indeed hard to believe that December is upon us and the most "upheveled" (is that word?) year in McAuley's short history is coming to an end. As we wind down the days until the end of the school and calendar year we do remind ourselves about the real purpose of Christmas which is the coming of Christ. The season of Advent is upon us and all classes are enmeshed in the Season of Advent and the birth of Christ.

As a special school and liturgical event, and to prepare ourselves for Christmas, I invite all families to join us this Sunday night at 6:00pm in St Joseph's Church for the Catherine McAuley family Mass. It is such a wonderful celebration to celebrate the Eucharist on a weekend out of our normal school setting. Our first family Mass earlier in the year drew a very large crowd and I am confident (whilst we may not outdraw the Taylor Swift concert) we will again have a large congregation of teachers, students and family members.

Michael Croke

School Fees Agreements & Verification Forms

Please return your School Fee Agreement & Verification Forms immediately. These forms are very important and are now overdue.

Cheerfulness

A Religious should endeavour always to have a cheerful countenance and a manner equally free from restraint and levity.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Student of the Week: Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Will Vial, Sienna Reid, Grace Edwards, Vi Nguyen, Ella Jones, Chayse King, Alyssa Acheson, Riley Allen, Elle Johnson, Evie Nunn, Will Kingham, Chelsea Finley, Lucy Cook, Montana Johns, Adut Thit, Ethan Kenney, Ethan Dillon, Blair Ward, Maeve Kennedy and Brodie Trajkovic.

Professional Learning: Over the past two Staff Meetings the McAuley staff, have been visited by Bathurst CEO staff. Tuesday 24th November Chris Derwin & Vicki Vance worked with our staff on the Model of Christ Centred Learning (MCCL) which is the Diocesan guide for contemporary Learning. Tuesday 1st December Lorraine Short worked with us to analyse our NAPLAN results and show us ways of improving the children’s basic skills and knowledge.

End of Year Organisation: Teachers are currently very busy finalising things for the end of 2015 and organising things for 2016. End of year reports are being written and will be sent home on Friday 11th December. There will be a note in the child’s report with requirements for 2016 and the class your child will be in. Teachers therefore have to finalise these classes by Friday 4th December.

Rewards Day: As the Year draws to an end the teachers are planning an end of year Reward Day to the pool, movies, ten pin bowling or something similar. Any child who has been on a Level 4 OR has received 10 Level 1’s OR 3 Level 2’s during the year will not be eligible to attend the Rewards Day. Rewards are a major part of the Behaviour Management Policy at McAuley. It is important that children are rewarded for displaying the expected behaviour at school.

Kindergarten - Thursday 10th December - Botanic Gardens
Year 1 - Year 3 - Thursday 10th December - Movie and Adventure Playground
Year 4 - Monday 14th December - Ten Pin Bowling
Year 5 - Thursday 10th December - Blayney Pool
Year 6 - Wednesday 9th December - Lake Canobolas

Year 6 Mass & Farewell Thursday 10th 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.

School Disco: Thank you to the committee of teachers for organising such a great Disco. A big thank you to Mr Cowan for providing great music. There were some great moves on show at the McAuley Disco and everyone had a great time.

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.

Steve Maguire

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

To pingle is a Norfolk word meaning to play with your food.
The Season of Advent: This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday in the Church’s Season of Advent. In St Mark’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.

Parish Mass Celebration: A reminder that the Parish Mass we have been invited to assist with will be this Sunday, 6th December, at St Joseph’s Church at 6.00pm. A note went home on Monday asking if you could let me know if your family could attend. Thank you to those who have responded. We would like to get a choir organised to lead the singing as well as children to assist with various ministries at the Mass. If you are able to join us, could you please return the note. This is such a lovely way to end our year as a school and Parish community, and I would encourage you once again to please consider attending this Mass and supporting our students.

Year 6 Farewell Mass: Our Year 6 Farewell Mass this year will be on Thursday, 10th December at 6:00pm. This very special Mass will be followed by a celebration in Kenna Hall for our Year 6 students.

School End of Year Mass: Our Whole School End of Year Mass will be next Friday, 11th December at 12:00noon. During this Mass the Captains for 2016 will be announced. It has been wonderful having such support from parents, friends and families throughout the year, and we look forward to your presence for our last Liturgical Celebration.

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,
Robyn Petty
The world as we know it, catering for all levels of learning with Online Technology.

In today’s modern society and especially education, it is fast becoming a technological world where we need to prepare children for jobs that don't exist now but might in 20 years from now. These will be the employment opportunities that our students are striving for today.

Online education means using tools like the internet, computer games and apps to develop students literacy, numeracy and many other skills. Online learning is almost certainly part of your child’s experience at school. You can use it at home too. I’m sure there are some parents out there that go to their children when their phone, tv or computer has a problem as they can solve it in less than 5 minutes. This is because that is their world.

What online education looks like

Online educational resources come in many forms. At your child’s school, for example, students might:

- Use ‘interactive whiteboards’ to access the internet.
- Research and present projects using software, multimedia (such as video and music files) and internet resources
- Learn more complex information, such as scientific terms, with the help of online testing
- Build and contribute to class websites
- Brainstorm classroom projects with each other and get feedback from the teacher in real-time
- Work at their own pace using educational websites such as Mathletics, Spelldrome, or Reading Eggs to improve their knowledge and skills
- Use chromebooks, Imacs or ipads – to perform research or be creative.

Benefits of online education

Online education is an active part of Catherine McAuley. It helps our students to:

- actively participate in their learning and work collaboratively
- use different learning styles
- develop their questioning, thinking and problem-solving skills
- improve their communication skills
- develop creative and presentation skills
- develop a more global perspective on topics.

There are many ways you too at home can collaborate in the online world with your children. Maybe research a few ideas together and start exploring.

Belinda Forbes
Music and Drama

Music Recital: Kindergarten, Year 1, the Training Band, Concert Band and Advanced Guitar Group will be performing in our Music Recital tomorrow afternoon in Kenna Hall from 2:00-3:00pm. Parents and friends are most welcome. All band members are reminded to bring their music and instruments to Kenna Hall at the beginning of lunch.

Band and Guitar Programs 2016

Thank you to all parents who have returned the registration forms for our instrumental programs for next year. Only new members need to register. Current members progress automatically to the next stage. If you have a child in Year 3 - Year 6 and would like them to be involved, please collect an information pack from Mrs Allan or the school office and return the forms by the end of next week.

Karen Snowden and Anne Allan

MINI VINNIES TOY SALE

The Mini Vinnies Toy Sale was a big success. We hope you enjoyed your new toys. We raised $440.50. Thank you for your donations. Now that we have counted the money we are going to send the money to the children of Madagascar.

By Freya and Bella

SCHOOL BANKING

A reminder that today was the last school banking day for the year. We will advise early next term when we will recommence for 2016.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Riley Nunn, Charlotte Collins, Lucinda Stewart, Anaka Douglas, Milla Sampson, Eve Davison, Sean McNeill, Ella Callow, Rowan McFarlane, Olivia Tilston, Finn Littlefield, Mia Milne, Harry Dean and Austin Fitzpatrick.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 7th December to Friday 11th December 2015

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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
Catherine McAuley Family Mass
Sunday 6th December 2015
6:00pm at St Joseph’s Church
Please join us for this special school and liturgical event.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil: St Mary’s 6:00pm
Sunday: St Joseph’s 8:00am
Mullion Creek 8:00am
St Mary’s 9:30am