Catholic Schools Week will be held next week from 8th to 14th March and will involve the communities of all 615 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

A major focus of our celebration will be a Special Catholic Schools Week Mass next Thursday March 12th at 10.00am. I invite all members of the Catherine McAuley community to join us.

Michael Croke
**Student of the Week:** Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Lilly Burns, Memphis Diduszko, Peter Scott-Robertson, Sage Fabar-Robey, Emily Tilston, Leo Vaughan, Edwina Waterman, Claire Gibson, Freya Bryant, Eve Genrich, Tess Hazzard, Koby Phillips, James Gibson, Lucy O’Malley, Jack Petty, Tyler Bell, Laura Cooper, Annliya Rose, Emily Irwin, Patrick Doyle & Aaron Cox.

**Professional Learning Communities:** All staff were released for forty minutes as a grade to work with Tonia Flanagan last Thursday to continue the great work in all grades with Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s). It was a valuable day where Tonia was informed of each grades progress and she was able to give critical feedback and future direction. We are fortunate that the Bathurst CEO are funding Tonia’s visits and have appointed Mrs Da Silva Tavares (one day a week) and Mrs Connor (one day a fortnight) to work with the executive to ensure the success of PLC’s in our school. The children are benefitting from the change in thinking PLC has brought to our school and the change in thinking and language of the teachers. PLC concentrates on essential learning and ensuring that all children achieve those essential learnings.

**ParentTeacher Interviews:** There will be an opportunity for one on one parent teacher interviews in the coming weeks.

* Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 - Week 7 - (Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March) In their classrooms
* Year 3 - Year 6 - Week 8 - (Monday 16th - Friday 20th March - Kenna Hall

**Instructions for online bookings have been sent home. If you do not have access to the internet you are able to book through the school office.**

**Southern Region Swimming Carnival Orange:** We were well represented at the Southern Region Swimming Carnival last Wednesday. A huge thank you to the parents who helped out on the day. Their support and help is very much appreciated. It is a wonderful achievement for these children to represent our school at the Southern Region Carnival. Well done kids!

**Diocesan Swimming Carnival Dubbo:** Yesterday we had 20 McAuley children represent our school as part of the Southern Region Team at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. A huge thank you to the parents who transported the children, were time keepers, supported and organised the children. Your efforts ensured the children had the opportunity to compete at this level. It is an excellent achievement to represent at Diocesan level and the 20 children should be proud of their efforts.

**McAuley Athletics Carnival:** Our annual Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 20th March at James Sheahan Catholic High School. There will be a separate note regarding the Athletics Carnival. This year it has been impossible to practise all field events at school as we have in previous years, due to the building work taking place. Therefore the Year 3 children have not had the exposure to the field events that we would normally provide. This will only occur this year and hopefully we will be back to normal next year. Parents will be asked to nominate children for field events. Please consider the disruptions and only nominate children if you feel they are competent in the event. Next year we will return to the idea that everyone has a go and is encouraged to participate.

**Peer Support Training:** The Year 6 children’s behavior throughout Peer Support Training last week was exemplary. They participated enthusiastically in all activities and displayed strong leadership qualities throughout the two days. The activities on the Friday at Burrendong were a lot of fun and really highlighted the skills required to lead a group in the Peer Support Program later this year. Thank you to all the year 6 Teachers for their time and effort with the Peer Support Training particularly Mr Hudson for organising our day at Burrendong.

**Professional Learning:** On Monday Mrs Forbes attended the IT in-service organised by the Bathurst CEO. The progress in IT over the last few years in the Diocese has been incredible. The children will benefit from everything that has been put in place. Yesterday Mrs Sands, Mrs Kelly and myself attended the Support Teacher Conference in Dubbo. Mrs Sands and Mrs Kelly attended the second day today. The key for the conference was education for all students in our schools. The link to Professional Learning Communities was very evident. The other focus was on ensuring that School Counsellors were being utilised to ensure the best results for the school community. We are fortunate to have Natalie Single as our School Counsellor on Fridays. Mr Croke will attend a Principal’s meeting on Thursday.

**James Sheahan Catholic High School Year 7 – 2016 Orientation:** Our Year 6 children will travel to James Sheahan on Tuesday 10th March as the first part of the Year 6 Orientation process. Children will come to school as normal on the day and will catch a bus to and from James Sheahan. They will return to school in time to catch afternoon buses. There is a Parent Evening for Year 7 – 2016 in Mercy Hall on Wednesday 11th March at 7.00pm.

**Sport at McAuley:** Next week McAuley children will participate in AFL (Year 5 & 6 girls and boys) and Rugby Union (Year3/4 & Year 5/6 boys) competitions. Thank you to Mr Hudson, Mr Sheridan & Mr Gough for giving the children the chance to participate.

**Kidslit:** We wish the Year 5 & Year 6 children who will represent our school at the Kidslit competition next Tuesday 10th March the best of luck. Thank you to Mrs Bishenden for providing them with the opportunity.

Steve Maguire
Lent: We are now entering our third week of Lent, which is the halfway mark The Gospel this weekend is rather unusual, as this is the first time we see Jesus angry. He sees his Father’s house, the Temple, being abused by traders and moneychangers and reacts forcefully, cleansing the Temple of this ‘wrong’. This sense of ‘wrong’ has moved Jesus to act. Through this Gospel, we can see that God wants us to act when we see something ‘wrong’ in our world. Where do we see ‘wrong’ in the world around us? Perhaps it is injustice, discrimination or poverty. This Gospel challenges us to be like Jesus, and act to change the ‘wrong’, even in small ways. As we continue our Lenten journey, we could look for opportunities to make a difference, however small it is, by doing our bit to right some of the ‘wrongs’ we see around us.

Project Compassion: It is lovely to see how much work is being done in rooms to assist students to understand the work of Caritas Australia through Project Compassion. Children are gaining a real insight into the very difficult lives of some of the people that are helped through their donations to this great cause. This week we meet Karen, a First Australian living in a remote rural community. Like many, she can’t always afford or access healthy food. At Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes, supported by Caritas Australia, Karen gained the skills she needed to provide healthier food for her family. Thank you for continuing to support your children by talking to them and encouraging them to donate and pray for those who are so vulnerable.

Catholic Schools’ Week Mass: Next week we will celebrate ‘Catholic Schools’ Week’ for 2015. We will be having a Whole School Mass next Thursday, 12th March at 10.00am in St Joseph’s Church. We would love to have as many family and friends join us as possible. This year’s theme is “Educating for Today and Tomorrow”.

Grade Liturgies and Masses: Congratulations to Year 4 who celebrated a beautiful Mass today, focused on our Lenten Journey. We look forward to our Year 6 Grade Mass on Wednesday, 18th March at 12.30pm. All family and friends are very welcome to join Year 6.

Wishing you a great week,

God Bless,

Robyn Petty
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

OUR ENRICHED STUDENTS

This is an exciting year in many ways at Catherine McAuley. This section of our newsletter will present to you from time to time a selection of our students who are gaining extra enrichment to further their learning. There are many different areas in which a student can be found to be enriched such as English, Music, Mathematics, Dance, Drama, Creative Arts, Science, HSIE, Religious Education, Physical Education and the important way our school is run by Christian Leadership.

This week I will focus on **CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**.

Our recent swimming carnival was an outstanding success when it came to showing the caring attitude of our school. At the carnival one student was showing outstanding Christian Leadership to his friend during a swimming race. His friend couldn’t find his goggles before the race so **HENRY MADIGAN** just handed over his without thinking about it. What a wonderful team player as well as a great Christian Leader. Well done Henry!

**Safety Safety Safety**

At the beginning of the term we spoke about how SAFETY is very important at Catherine McAuley. We are still experiencing some difficulties with the Byng Street Playground for Kinder and Year 1.

The students know the rules about playing on the equipment in the morning and the afternoon, as well as not going past the yellow line near the big tree once they have placed their bag on their class line.

It would be really helpful if parents could also encourage your child to remember these rules, as this would assist the teacher on duty to run a SAFE playground. Thankyou

**Belinda Forbes**

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

J.K. Rowling has no middle name.
Year 3A Class of the Week

In 3A we have started the year with great enthusiasm for our learning and showing much care and respect for each other. We have also shown enormous respect for our environment when we went out in search for mini animals in the Infants playground. Here are a few photos of us in the yard:

As we have been learning about all kinds of animals, we had to complete a Homework assignment about an animal in our backyard. Many of us picked worms, praying mantises, dogs or chickens. Hunter chose to speak about his rabbit Snowy. He also brought Snowy in to our class so we could have a close-up look at the little fellow. Here’s what Will had to say about Snowy.

Snowy Visits 3A by Will Kingham

On February 27th, Hunter brought his rabbit in to the classroom. His name is Snowy and he is white.

First we moved the tables then we sat in a circle and Hunter talked to us about his rabbit. Then Hunter let Snowy out and Mrs Priest walked around the circle and we all had a pat. Then Mrs Priest put Snowy in the middle. Hunter took a bite out of his apple but Snowy didn’t eat the apple. Then Mrs Priest put Snowy back in his cage.

I think Snowy is cute.

 Mrs Trish Aumuller
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Just a reminder for parents to go online to book your parent/teacher interview if you have not already done so. The last day for bookings for Years K-2 will be Friday 6th March and for Years 3-6 Friday 13th March. If you have any problems booking your interview, please phone the office and we can book it for you. The website for booking is: schoolinterviews.com.au and our code is F5YSR.

MINI VINNIES

This year in Mini Vinnies we voted to make Easter cards and give Easter eggs to the residents at St Francis, and also to raise money for the hospital. We are asking for donations of chocolate Easter eggs for the residents. Easter Eggs can be dropped off at the school office from Monday 9th March.

Arabella and Freya
Publicity Officers

HEAD LICE

Head Lice are once again prevalent and we would like to remind parents to be vigilant in checking your children’s hair. Please ensure that long hair is tied back at all times. It is school policy that children are not sent to school if they have head lice until they have commenced treatment. Once treatment has commenced children may return to school provided frequent checks are made to ensure total elimination.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking day is Wednesday. Bank books can be sent to school and they will be processed and returned home in due course.

FACEBOOK

Whilst facebook is a useful tool for us to convey information to parents, please do not message us through facebook to leave messages for your child or to request information as we do not have the time to observe our facebook page as regularly as needed to receive messages. Should you need to get a message to your child or need information from the office, please phone us on 6361 3344.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week:
Koby Reid, Jessie Bush, Kiara Scrimshaw, Seth Vardanega, Ava Westgeest, Max Vaughan, Jack Dean, Chloe Cox, Jaxon Guyer and Braiden Jordan

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March 2015

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* 12:45 - 1:45pm

Please Note: We now have Sour Cream & Onion Chips $1.50