FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I had the great privilege and pleasure to attend the Bathurst Diocese Spelling Bee final in Wellington last Thursday. Our school certainly scooped the pool with Thomas Dews taking the title of champion Grade 5/6 speller in the Diocese and Lucy Stewart gaining second place in the Grade 3/4 section. As well we also witnessed commendable efforts from Milan Shaji and Alan Parayil. Given there are 26 primary schools in the Diocese this is a truly outstanding effort from Thomas and Lucy.

Whilst modern technology makes many facets of our life so much easier and simpler there are certain basic literacy and numeracy skills that need to be taught including the correct spelling of words and basic mathematical concepts. It is very hard to "Google" something if you can't spell in the first place. If this were not true we would abolish the Infants section of our school (where all the basics are taught) and commence in Grade 3. The best way to learn to spell is by spelling. The best way to improve reading is by reading and the best way to learn times tables is to learn times tables. There are no shortcuts. We can all say our child is doing well at school if they are an accomplished speller, a competent reader and have a good grasp of mathematics. Such things must be taught and consolidated at home as well as school.

No matter what level of intelligence God may have sprinkled on us we can all improve ourselves by putting in the hard work no matter what area of life this involves. At the moment the Principal needs to practise his footy tipping as he has become very deficient!

Michael Croke
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Student Of The Week: Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Jayde Spicer, Annabelle McNeil, Sophie West, Thomas Horan, Hayden Scrimshaw, Patrick Gray, Myles Sullivan, Lillian Townsend, Kashae Gentles, Samantha Harvey, Hannah Page, Emma Kennedy, Anniya Rose, Alex Vandanaega, Aden Fraser, Maeve Kennedy, Lance Milne, Amelia Wilcox, Cara Seale & Aiden Lenaghan.

Peer Support: This week in Peer Support the children discussed the concept of perseverance. An important part of learning is striving to improve and achieve our goals. Children need to practise talking positively to themselves when dealing with difficult situations. When children are supported and praised it encourages them to persevere. Encourage your child this week to persevere in learning something new.

Notes & Newsletters: A reminder that all school newsletters and notes that are sent home are available on the school website under the newsletters and notes tab. Once you hit the newsletters and notes tab scroll down to find the current newsletters and notes.

Diocesan Spelling Bee: Congratulations to Thomas Dews, Milan Shaji, Lucy Stewart & Alan Parayil who represented our school at the Diocesan Spelling Bee Finals Day in Wellington last Thursday. All children were great ambassadors for McAuley. Special mention to Thomas Dews for winning the Stage 3 Final and Lucy Stewart for being the runner up in the stage 2 Final.

CWA Speaking: Congratulations Arkie Prisk, Lily Wykes, Zac Hazzard and Saige King for representing McAuley at the CWA Speech Competition. Miss Wilson accompanied the children to the Finals day in Bathurst. All children were confident and displayed great communication skills.

Professional Learning: Mr Croke attended the Principals Meeting in Dubbo last Friday. Miss Wilson & Mrs Miller attended an EduTECH conference in Brisbane this week. The whole staff will take part in a retreat this Friday at Carcoar. Fr Pat Ruanne will lead us on a day of reflection and time to contemplate our own spiritual journey.

Polding Touch Representative: Congratulations to Ella Robins for being chosen in the Polding Girls Touch Team last Friday at Mudgee. We were well represented at the trials by Sean Carpenter, Samantha Medlyn, Lucy Warner, Jesse Dean, Nikyha Gentles & Lucy Nagle who all displayed fantastic touch skills on the day.

AFL: Congratulations to the Year 5/6 boys who took part in the AFL Finals Day in Sydney last Wednesday. Thank you to Mr Hudson for organising the AFL. Special thanks to Mrs Carpenter and Mr Corby for travelling with the team and coaching them.

Lunch boxes, containers, drink bottles items of school clothing: The number of lunch boxes, drink bottles and items of school clothing that are left on the playground after recess and lunch is amazing. The teachers are currently having a blitz to ensure they are all picked up. The number of these items without names on them is disappointing. They are expensive items to replace. Please assist us in ensuring all items are labeled so they can be returned easily to the owner!

School Office:

Please be advised that all contact for our school should be made through the Office in the Hill St site. Even if it is regarding a student or teacher on the Byng St Site. The School Office Phone number is 6361 3344.
Pentecost Sunday: This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost. This feast is also known as the Birthday of the Church, as this is when the disciples took responsibility for continuing the Church after Jesus had ascended into heaven. It was on this wonderful feast that the disciples received the Holy Spirit, and were given His gifts, which enabled them to go forth and proclaim the Word of God.

Confirmation: Last weekend Bishop Michael McKenna visited our Parish and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on our Parish Candidates. I would like to congratulate our students on receiving this final Sacrament of Initiation, and I pray the Spirit will continue to guide them in all they do. Once again, a very big ‘thank you’ to the Year 6 Teachers and Mrs Bishenden for all the time and effort they put into helping these Confirmation Candidates.

Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass: Next Thursday, 12th June will be our Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass at 10.00am in the Church (please note change of date). We would love to have parents, families and friends join us for this very special Mass. We will then have a little party for the Year 6 students in Kenna Hall afterwards, where we will cut the Confirmation Cake (kindly donated by Woolworths).

First Communion: It seems that preparation for one Sacrament finishes as another begins. Our Year 3 children are about to commence preparation for their First Holy Communion, when they will receive the Eucharist for the first time. There will be a Parent Meeting for all parents of children who will be making their First Holy Communion this year next Tuesday, 10th June (the day after the long weekend) at 7.00pm in St Mary’s Church. At this meeting, parents will be given important information pertaining to the ceremony and the reception of the Sacrament. This will not be a long meeting, so please make every effort to be there.

Liturgies For This Term: We had a lovely Year 2 Grade Liturgy today, celebrating Pentecost. Thank you to all who came along to help with our celebration. Our next celebration will be on Thursday, 12th June starting at 10.00am. This will be a Whole School Mass in celebration of Confirmation. We love to see parents and friends at all our Liturgies and Masses, and you are always welcome to join us.

God Bless,
Robyn Petty

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

Bugs Bunny is not a rabbit but a hare.
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

WOW and WOW and More WOW.

Last Wednesday I had the pleasure of accompanying four of our students to Bathurst to compete in the CWA Speech Competition at All Saints College. The competitors came from all over the area and the quality was high.

All of our students had to prepare a speech on a topic set by the CWA. They had to present this speech in front of their grade classmates and teachers, which means at least 60 students. They were then chosen to represent our school in Bathurst.

On the day the students then had to perform their speech again in front of three judges, a timekeeper, the chairperson and a room full of strangers. There were at least forty competitors in each grade section.

Our students Arkie Prisk, Saige King, Lilly Wykes and Zac Hazzard performed outstandingly displaying confidence, expression and enjoyment. It was such an honour to watch them shine and make Catherine McAuley proud.

Our students, even though they did not place on the day are all winners in our eyes for putting in all the hard work beforehand and presenting on the day. A huge congratulations to all of them and their family support crew. Watch for them in the future, as I’m sure some sort of public gallery will be in for another round of these great public speakers.

Well done team you should be very proud of yourselves.

Belinda Wilson

EduTECH Conference

Belinda Wilson and I have been fortunate enough to attend the EduTECH Conference this week in Brisbane. During the conference we have been engaged in seminars that will assist our school in moving forward with our ICT goals. The seminars included topics such as; implementing the new digital curriculum, discussions concerning the benefits and pitfalls of students bringing their own devices to school (BOYD), and a look at ways of engaging students for success in the classroom. We are very grateful to the CEO in Bathurst for their sponsorship in supporting our attendance.

Car Park

In the interests of safety, we ask that parents do not use the teacher's car park at Byng St. In addition to the safety concerns, parking spaces are very limited because many of the spaces have been allocated to the business leasing the old convent. This applies also to parents who are assisting in the tuckshop. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Picking Up Students

Just a reminder to parents that children from the Infants School must be collected by an adult. It is not safe for children under the age of 8 to cross the road without the supervision of an adult. For more information on road safety for children around schools, please go to http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au

Clare Miller

**Roster—Commencing Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June, 2014**

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KINDERGARTEN NEWS FROM KD

During Week 2 Kindergarten travelled to Bathurst to Heritage Farm. We were lucky to have a beautiful day! Our favourite things included watching a sheep getting shorn, seeing a variety of sheep, milking a cow, riding on the trailer on the back of a tractor, and feeding a lamb.

Since then we have written stories, sang farm songs, made our own tractors, and read many farm stories. Here are some pictures we would like to share with you.

AFL Finals - Sydney

Last Wednesday a team of Catherine McAuley Year 5 & 6 boys attended the AFL Finals Day in Sydney. Unfortunately the children did not progress any further but should be congratulated on their great team spirit and excellent behaviour. Thank you to all parents for supporting the children and to Dion Corby for assisting with coaching.

 Dio Touch Trials in Mudgee

Last Friday Catherine McAuley were represented by seven students in the Diocesan Touch teams at the Polding Trials in Mudgee. All children are to be congratulated on their exemplary behaviour. Congratulations to Ella Robins who has made it through to Polding.