FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Now that the spring and dry weather is finally upon us (fingers crossed) we have a chance to put in place some "additions" to the school playground. In recent times we have added some new basketball hoops, a repositioning of the Volleyball posts and a "Sydney Olympics" running line throughout the playground. During the next week we will be adding some new outdoor furniture for students that will make playing times more comfortable and endearing. Our grand dream is that in the very near future we will be laying some astroturf to our current outdoor track area and covered Infants area.

Whilst we don't have acres and acres of grass for children to play on (the value of which is debatable in rainy times) new parents to the school always comment on the large size of our playground and the variety of things that there is to do in all our designated areas. As a staff we are of the opinion that children play better and are better "socially" when they have things to do.

Michael Croke

The Great God
Se how quietly the Great God works! Darkness is spread over the earth and light comes again at dawn, yet there is never a sound of curtains being drawn or shutters being closed.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
**Whole School Assembly:** KW will present their work at the next Whole School Assembly this Friday 16th September commencing at 2:20pm in Kenna Hall. All welcome.

**Senior Band:** Last Friday our Senior Band competed at the Orange Eisteddfod. They were excellent. The adjudicator commented on the high standard of all the bands in the section. Bands traveled a fair distance with Bathurst and Young being represented in the section. The McAuley senior Band was awarded third place which is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to all band members. We appreciate the time that Mr Love our conductor puts in to ensure we produce a polished performance. Thank you to Mrs Allen for all her work in providing the children with this great opportunity.

**Diocesan Athletics Carnival:** We wish the following children the best of luck when they represent Polding at Newcastle on Friday 9th September: Freya Bryant 100M, Holley Dunn 100M, Hope Gibson 800M, Chloe Jaques High Jump, Taj Jordan 100M & Rachel Masling High Jump. This is a fantastic achievement well done kids. The children will travel to Newcastle this Thursday. Thank you to Mr Gough and Mr Hudson who have volunteered to be Polding team Managers and will attend the carnival.

**Christmas Art Competition:** WOW! I was lucky enough to see the Diocesan Christmas Art Exhibition currently being set up in Kenna Hall. The entries are outstanding and very different to each other. The artwork not only displays the amazing artistic talent in our Diocese of children in Year 5 & Year 6 it also shows the strong faith and understanding the children are developing in their Religion. Many of the concepts and depictions show maturity in faith and understanding above the age level of the children. I recommend you visit the exhibition in Kenna Hall this week, it will be open following the Official Opening tomorrow, Thursday 8th September.

**Behaviour at School:** As a rule the standard of student behavior at McAuley is exceptional and a credit to our school and the families who attend. However we do have incidents that occur and these are dealt with following our policies and practices. If you have an issue with something that has occurred at school please contact your child’s class teacher if it is a class issue, or a member of the executive if it is a playground issue. All concerns and issues are investigated thoroughly and dealt with. It is important to remember that Level 1 notes are issued to inform parents of a low level incident that their child has been involved in. If necessary a punishment may be given once the punishment has been completed the child starts a fresh. *Every student at McAuley has the right to feel safe...be happy...and learn.*

**Playground Committee:** I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work our playground committee is doing under the leadership of Mrs Miller. Already so many wonderful things have happened to provide our children with opportunities during play and sport including: ‘Pop Up Play’, passive areas for children to play, a variety of toys, activities and dress ups, new games and a running track painted on to the playground, clarification of rules and expectations. The committee is now looking at installing artificial grass in areas of our playground and more seating for Year 5 & Year 6. It has been great watching the improvements on our playground which definitely benefit all McAuley students.

**Work Experience Students from James Sheahan:** This week we have had Tayla Kaufman and Ellie West. Both girls have been extremely helpful in the classes they have visited helping in a variety of ways. Their maturity and approach to the Work Experience placement has impressed me and they are a credit to their families and to their school.

**Year 6 Canberra Excursion:** The Year 6 teachers have begun preparation for the Year 6 Canberra excursion that will take place on Thursday 17th & Friday 18th of November. As it is a big responsibility to take over seventy children away over night all Year 6 children must behave appropriately at school and all school functions to experience this great privilege. Parents of children who are not exhibiting expected behavior will have to agree to a contract that stipulates that the child won’t attend this excursion if their behavior continues to be unacceptable.

**Morning Routine:** Teachers commence duty at 8:35am. It is important that parents realise children who are dropped at school before this time will not have direct teacher supervision. Any child at school before 8:35am MUST be seated in the designated areas. Any children who are not seated before 8:35am will receive a Level 1.

Steve Maguire
Mary, Mother of the Church: Tomorrow, Thursday, 8th September, we celebrate the birthday of our Blessed Mother, Mary. Throughout her life she always had complete trust in God. He asked so much of her, without any explanation, and she was always willing to follow His will. Perhaps over the next week we could spend a little time reflecting on the life of our Blessed Mother, and looking to her for inspiration to cope with all the difficult and unexpected things that happen in our daily lives.

Fathers’ Day: Thank you to all who came and helped us celebrate Fathers’ Day last Friday. It was fantastic to see so many dads and other special men in our children’s lives able to join us for this lovely Liturgy. The children were so proud to have their fathers, grandfathers and families with them. I hope everyone had a lovely celebration last Sunday.

Confirmation: We welcome Bishop Michael McKenna to our Parish this weekend to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our Year 6 Candidates. Today, in preparation for their Confirmation, Year 6 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and tomorrow Bishop Michael will speak with all our Year 6 students regarding Confirmation. Please keep all the Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they finish preparing for this very special Sacrament. Please Note: all Confirmation Candidates are expected to be at St Mary’s Church tonight, Wednesday 7th September at 7pm for a practice for the reception of the Sacrament. This is a very important practice, as there is quite a bit involved in the ceremony of Confirmation, and Candidates need to know the procedures involved. Sponsors are welcome to attend, but are not essential.

Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass: Next Wednesday, 14th September we will celebrate our Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass. This will be a whole school celebration commencing at 12:15pm in the Church. The Mass will be followed by a small party for our Year 6 students in Kenna Hall to congratulate them on receiving this very important Sacrament. Parents and friends are invited to join the students in the Hall for the cutting of the Confirmation Cake and a cup of tea.

Christmas STORYTELLING ART Competition 2016 Opening of Exhibition” Tomorrow our Year 6 students and our Choir will join St Mary’s Year 6 and many members from other schools in our Diocese at the Opening of our Diocesan Christmas Art Competition. Each year all students in Year 5 and Year 6 throughout the Diocese work on pieces of art for this competition. This year the exhibition is being held in Kenna Hall, starting tomorrow, Thursday, 8th September, at 11:00am with a Liturgy. Having had a chance to look through the amazing artworks on display, I would fully recommend anyone with a few moments to spare come along to see this wonderful display of work from across our Diocese. The Exhibition will be open to the public after prize giving tomorrow and from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Friday as well. All family and friends of our School and Parish are invited to attend.

Mass to celebrate the Canonisation of “Mother Teresa of Kolkata”: After the wonderful celebrations in Rome earlier this week, Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Michael McKenna in St Mary’s Church tomorrow Thursday, 8th September at 5.45pm to celebrate the Church’s official recognition of this wonderful woman. All members of our school and Parish families and friends are invited to celebrate this Mass with our local Missionaries Sisters of Charity.

Launch of National Catholic Missions: Next Tuesday Mr Croke and a group of our Year 6 School Leaders will join representatives from James Sheahan and St Mary’s and travel to La Salle Academy in Lithgow to join with other schools in our Diocese for the National Launch of Catholic Missions for 2016. It is a wonderful opportunity for our Catholic School Community to celebrate one of the key missions of the Church – helping those in need.

Catherine McAuley Celebration Day: It is not long now until we celebrate our Patron, Venerable Catherine McAuley. On Wednesday, 21st September we will start with Mass at 12:15pm, followed by a host of activities. We would love you to join us for Mass on this very special day, and stay for some of the fun!

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,

Robyn Petty
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Our SRC members. We had a few students absent on the day but they will definitely be included in future posts. These students were very excited to become members of the SRC in helping to plan the future for our students.

Belinda Forbes

Weekend Mass times

St Mary’s Church  5:00pm Saturday
                9:30am Sunday
St Joseph’s Church 8:00am Sunday
                5:00pm Sunday

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

The first version of football’s offside rule stated that players shouldn’t ‘loiter’ near the opposing goal.
MUSIC & DRAMA

Year 3 Plays
Each Year 3 class will be performing their play, "Dinosaurs Alive" next week in the Byng St Music and Drama room. If anyone has a dinosaur costume, onesie, mask, horns, tails or anything that could pass as a dinosaur costume we would love to borrow it! Performance times are:

3A Monday 12:55pm
3H Thursday 2:40pm
3S Friday 10:40am

Parents and friends are most welcome. Remember to enter via the school office!

Concert Band
We were delighted with the performance by our School Concert Band at the Orange Eisteddfod last Friday. The children were awarded Third Place. The adjudicator commented on the high quality of the performances and it was indeed one of the best Primary School sections I've ever had the pleasure of attending. Well done children and Mr Love.

Anne Allan

SCHOOL FEES

All school fees accounts that do not have a payment plan in place must be settled by this Friday 9th September. Thankyou!

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Koby Phillips, Noah Richards, Ruby Davison, Meagan D’Ombraim, Knox Gibson, Ruby Fischer, Toby Dickinson, Albert Robinson, Nicholas Ryan and Alannah Seale.

TUCKSHOP

Please note that Focus drinks are no longer available at the tuckshop.

Roster—Commencing Monday 12th September to Friday 16th September 2016

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>9.30am—11.30am</th>
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<td>K Callaghan / P Taberner</td>
<td>P Crain / E Kingham / S Rowland</td>
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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
We have had a number of children who have had ‘tummy bugs’ or are unwell with vomiting and or diarrhoea. Please note the following information obtained from NSW Department of Health Website:

**Viral Gastroenteritis**

How is it treated? There is no specific treatment for viral gastroenteritis except rest and drinking plenty of fluids. **Infants and children attending childcare or school should be excluded from attending for 24 hours after the resolution of symptoms** • wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water for 10 seconds after using the toilet • drink plenty of clear fluids, for example juice or soft drink diluted 1 part to 4 parts water, to prevent dehydration. Avoid undiluted fruit juice and soft drinks as they may increase dehydration and diarrhoea. Cleaning soiled surfaces and clothing reduces further spread of the virus. When cleaning up vomit or faeces: • wear gloves • wash hands with soap and running water for 10 seconds after gloves are removed and disposed • use disposable paper towels or rags to remove any solid material and seal them in a plastic bag before placing in the rubbish bin • clean any soiled object or surface with hot water and detergent and allow to dry thoroughly.

*Information obtained from NSW Department of Health Factsheet.*