FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Official Opening of the Extensions to Catherine McAuley Administration and Classrooms will be held on Friday 1st April at 10.30am. All are invited.

Michael Croke

Charity
Our divine Saviour’s example should always be before us under all circumstances, particularly in exercising charity towards our neighbour, and more especially towards those who are united with us in religion.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841

Parent Teacher Interviews: Parent teacher interviews are underway. These interviews are a wonderful opportunity for open conversation between parents and teachers. A big thank you to our teachers who put a lot of time into preparing for these interviews and many hours during this week reporting the progress of each child in their class before or after teaching for the full day. We are fortunate to have such dedicated professional teachers at McAuley.

Whole School Assembly 1B to present Work: Thursday 10th March 2:10pm in Kenna Hall. All welcome.

James Sheahan Catholic High School Year 7 - 2017 Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 16th March 7:00pm in Mercy Hall and tours of the school will be available from 5:45pm on the Wednesday 16th. Parents should note that the evening event does involve walking around the school and visiting a series of classrooms. Parents intending to participate in a 5:45pm tour need to phone the school on 6362 1422 by 4:00pm, Monday 14th March to assist in organising the tour groups. The evening will run from 7:00pm to 9:15pm on Wednesday 16th March. (The James Sheahan Orientation process has changed this year. The Year 6 children will not visit James Sheahan until Thursday 10th November and there will be another information Evening on this night).

Diocesan Swimming Carnival: Wednesday - 2nd March – Dubbo Pool. Congratulations to the 26 children from McAuley who competed in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Dubbo last week. Thank you to Mr Croke and the many parents who travelled to Dubbo to supervise and support the children. Congratulations to Knox Gibson who will now represent our Diocese at the NSWPSA Carnival in Homebush.

Diocesan Winter Sport Trials: Children in Year 6 (with the exception of Under 11 Rugby League where Year 5 students will be invited) will be given the opportunity to trial for Polding Teams in Bathurst on Friday 18th March. Sports include Rugby Union, Ruby League (Opens & Under 11’s), Soccer, Hockey and Netball. A letter will be sent home to children in our school who are invited to the trials. Students attending must play the sport and display above average skill level and ability. If there are not five talented Year 6 children in any sport an above average Year 5 student may be considered.

McAuley Athletics Carnival: Our annual Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 22nd March at James Sheahan Catholic High School. Notes will go out regarding information, permission, parent helpers and canteen information. All Year 3 – Year 6 children will run in a 100M race. They can then nominate to compete in 200M, 800M, Discus, Shot Put, High Jump & Long Jump. 100M events are in individual age groups 8 Years – 12 Years. All other events are in three divisions - Junior, 11 Years & Senior. Year 2 children turning 8 this Year will be given the opportunity to compete in a 100M competitive race in the Primary Carnival with the idea of representing McAuley at the southern Region Carnival at Canowindra. If they choose this option they will not run in the races at the K-2 Carnival but they will participate in all other events at the K-2 Carnival.

Field Event Dates:
- Friday 18th March - Discus at Jaeger Reserve & Long Jump at school
- Tuesday 22nd March – High Jump & Shot Put at the carnival

Lunch boxes, containers & drink bottles: The number of lunch boxes and drink bottles that are left on the playground after recess and lunch is amazing. Baskets for all classes are taken out at recess and lunch to try to fix this problem. 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.

Uniform Policy:
A reminder that we have a “shirts out” policy for boys when wearing their summer uniform. However the expectation is that shirts are tucked in with the winter uniform. A reminder that sport socks must be above the ankle. The “Hair below the shoulders must be tied back off their face” does apply to boys and girls. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Children are expected to be attired in the correct school uniform each day of the school year and to present themselves in line with school dress policy.

Peer Support Training: The Year 6 children will take part in Peer Support Training Monday 4th April at Lake Burrendong and Tuesday 5th April in Kenna Hall. This training allows them to lead a small group of children from K – 5 in order to run the Peer Support Program in our school. We thank the Year 6 teachers and children for their time and effort to ensure the children in our school benefit from this valuable program.

Learning for all...EXPECT, INSPIRE, ENGAGE.

Steve Maguire
Catholic Schools’ Week: This week is Catholic Schools Week, and gives us an opportunity to celebrate all that makes our amazing school so good. Catholic Schools Week is a wonderful occasion for students, teachers, families and parishes to acknowledge the strengths and achievements of Catholic schools. This year we join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT, celebrating with the theme ‘I belong. You belong. We belong.’ We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage and of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms everyday. We would love you to join us as we continue our celebrations with our Whole School Mass tomorrow, Thursday 10th March at 12:15pm followed by the Year 1B Assembly at 2:15pm. You are most welcome to bring your lunch along and join the children during lunchtime.

Lent: This weekend we celebrate the Fifth Sunday in Lent, and the beginning of the last week before Holy Week. In St John’s Gospel once again we hear a story of forgiveness and mercy. When a woman is brought before Jesus accused of a crime punishable by stoning to death, Jesus merely looks at the ground, drawing in the dirt and suggests that if there is anyone who has not sinned, then let them be the first to throw a stone. It doesn’t take long for everyone to re-evaluate their situation and slowly disappear. Jesus finally looks up and asks the woman ‘Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she replied. ‘Neither do I condemn you,’ said Jesus ‘go away, and don’t sin any more.’ (John 8:10-11). Once again we are reminded of God’s unconditional love and mercy. Jesus acknowledges her wrong doing, but is more focused on offering her compassion than condemning her. Perhaps this week we could look for opportunities to extend this same compassion when someone has done us wrong.

Project Compassion: Thank you so much for your continued support of Project Compassion this year. During this week when we celebrate education, we can truly see how disadvantaged and limited those who are unable to get an education can be in determining their own lives. Through Project Compassion we can truly make a difference to these people, giving them opportunities to become self-supporting and proud of their abilities and achievements. Please continue to encourage your children to donate towards this wonderful cause, and pray for the success of Project Compassion.

Liturgies and Masses: Next Wednesday, 16th March, Year 3 will celebrate their Grade Mass at 12:30pm in St Joseph’s Church. All family and friends of Year 3 are very welcome to join us in this celebration.

Holy Week: This year we will celebrate Holy Week on Thursday, 24th March. As a whole school, we will be travelling through the children’s version of the Stations of the Cross. Most classes will prepare a static display of one of the Stations of the Cross and we will move in class groups around the different classrooms. Due to the serious nature of this journey, we will be moving very quietly from one area to the next, and reverently going from room to room. All children will be participating in this journey, and parents, families and friends, as always, are welcome to join us. More details with times will be in next week’s newsletter.

Wishing you a great week,

God Bless

Robyn Petty
Safety at Catherine McAuley is always on our mind. A safe school is a happy school and we pride ourselves on always maintaining our safety. We teach all aspects of safety in our Health Curriculum because as we know children are most vulnerable to road accidents and injuries, and they especially need adult supervision. Please be vigilant in teaching children about road safety. It is your duty as parents to make sure that children below the age of 10 are never left unsupervised on roads.

Here are some top tips that you as parents can read with your children to help our staff with student learning and for us to know that our students are safe after they leave school.

1. **Look, Look And Look:** First they should look left, then look right and then once again look left before they cross the road.

2. **No Running:** Teach them that when it comes to road sense, running is not safe.

3. **Cross At Pedestrian Crossings:** Teach your children where to cross the road. Make sure to teach them the traffic signals that are for pedestrians to cross the road.

4. **Red, Green and Yellow:** Your child should know by heart that red means stop and green means go.

5. **Get Out At The Kerb Side:** Whenever your child is getting out of a car or a bus, ensure it is the rear side of the passenger seat.

6. **No Playing Zones:** Tell them that roads are not playgrounds and they should completely avoid it, even if it is an empty street.

Belinda Forbes
MUSIC & DRAMA

In Terms 2 & 3 we are having a Knitting Circle during one lunch time each week for those students who would like to learn how to knit. Our first project will be knitting scarves. We are asking for donations of 8ply or 12ply wool and pairs of knitting needles sizes 4.00 mm or 6.00 mm (for 8 ply wool) or size 7.00 mm needles (for 12ply wool).

Students may like to bring yarn of their choice or colour and needles using the above information as a guide.

Also, any parents, grandparents etc who would be able to assist would be most welcome. The day of the week for the Knitting Circle is to be decided, but time would be 1:30pm to 2:10pm. Please let us know if you would like to assist!

Helen Cracknell

CLOTHING POOL

Our McAuley Clothing Pool will be open on Friday 18th March from 8:30am until 9:30am. The Clothing Pool will now be located in the Music & Drama Building at Byng Street. Entry between 8:30-9:00am can be made through the Byng Street gates, please go to the back of the building, or from 9:00-9:30am through the office at Hill Street. There are many second hand items on sale.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder that school photos will be taken next Wednesday 16th March. Please return all envelope orders to school as soon as possible.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week:
Jack Dean, Chloe Cox, Jaxon Guyer, Braiden Jordan, Domenic Belmonte, Jorja Mascord, Aldrian Bangayan, Ruby Draper, Lilli Duffey, Madeline Duffey, Lachlan Chellas, Patrick Coffey, Ryan McNeill, Oliver Schofield, Maddison Vaughan, Mason Everett, Nicholas Johnsen, Taj Jordan and Imogen Shaw.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 14th March to Friday 18th March 2016

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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
Invitation from the Sisters of St Joseph

Saturday 19th March 2016 is the Feast of St Joseph. On this day the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate 150 years since their foundation in Penola South Australia in 1866 as a result of the dream of Mary MacKillop and Fr Tenison Woods. The Sisters invite you to join with them in giving thanks to God for the countless blessings that have come to Australia and beyond as a result of the ministry of the Sisters in small country places and larger cities.

Mass will be celebrated in a number of centres throughout NSW on this Feast of St Joseph. Priests and Religious, Associates, family, friends, ex-students and current students of the Sisters are invited to join the Sisters in the celebration of Mass followed by refreshments.

Mass will be celebrated at **St Patrick’s Church, Wellington, (58 Warne St) at 11.00 am.**

For purposes of catering and printing please send your reply **before 6 April** to Sr Julie Simpson

Phone: 4677 1477 or 0418 674 452 and leave a message

Email: julie.simpson@sosj.org.au.

Post: Sr Julie Simpson, PO Box 13, Picton NSW 2571