As we very quickly slip into the school year the Christmas holidays are becoming a distant memory (sadly!). I have been in many discussions in recent days with new parents especially about why their child likes Catherine McAuley school. All children and parents and teachers are enamoured by the wonderful facilities at Catherine McAuley (as I look out my window and see the last of the playground turf being laid!). But essentially it is not the facilities that give a school its heart and reputation. A brand new kitchen does not make a good restaurant. At McAuley we take great pride in how we promote character traits that we think are important in children and indeed adults. In recent times I have noticed Grade 6 students congratulating the newly "professed" captains of their grade. Pride in each other. At the swimming carnival swimmers shaking hands with their fellow competitors as they leave the water. Kindergarten students helping each other into class. Staff and parents making a special effort at the welcoming barbecue. Senior students asking if they can help the tuckshop staff. Students giving a hearty good morning to each other as they enter the playground. Students wanting to join the Mini Vinnies group. Sadly not all adults always act this way towards each other.

As a staff we are only building on the work that is taking place at home but we are pleased to work with the raw materials that have been given to us!

Michael Croke
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Parent Teacher Information Evening:
Year 2 – Year 6 – Wednesday 10\textsuperscript{th} February at 6:30pm in Kenna Hall

Southern Region Swimming Carnival: Thursday 25\textsuperscript{th} February - Orange Aquatic Centre
Diocesan Swimming Carnival: Wednesday - 2\textsuperscript{nd} March – Dubbo Pool
McAuley Athletics Carnival: K - 6 - Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March - James Sheahan Catholic High School

Uniform Policy (Hairstyles):
Please find the following extract from our uniform policy. 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, which stipulates:
• Extremes of hairstyle are not permitted, these include coloured hair and haircuts, patterns or undercuts less than a ‘two’ or rats tails. Hair below the shoulders must be tied back off their face
• no bracelets, bangles, necklaces or anklets - a religious medal on a fine chain may be worn
• one small ring only
• no nail polish
• one set of earrings only sleepers or studs ; boys: one single sleeper or stud
• T-shirts under short sleeved shirts are not permitted

No Hat Stay in the Shade: Children must wear a school hat during play and sport in Term 1. If a child does not have a school hat they must stay in the designated shaded area during play.

Morning & Afternoon Routines:  Commencing Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} February
Now that our playground (Stage 1) is complete there are a few changes to morning and afternoon routines that will come into effect from Monday, 15\textsuperscript{th} February. Please note that Kindergarten pickup time is 3:10pm from Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} February.

Entry at Hill St: The only gate that will be unlocked in the morning and the afternoon will be the smaller gate near the new playground. For security purposes this gate has a "pool fence" styled latch.

Arrival Before 8:35am: For students who arrive before 8:35am the small Hill St gate and the Byng St Gates will be opened. Please note that there is no teacher supervision until 8:35am.

Seating Before 8:35am: All students who arrive before 8:35am are to sit with their bags in the K/1 eating area. Teachers on duty will take the students and their bags to their designated play area at 8:35am.

Bags in the Morning: Children to place bags on their lines. (Year 3 and Year 4 will no longer place their bags on the lines at Byng St)

Wet Weather: On wet mornings students will place the bags in the following areas after 8:35am:
Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 - Under the COLA
Year 3 and Year 4 - in the covered walkway next to the computer room.
Year 5 and Year 6 - in the covered area at the rear of 5C

Securing the Site:
* All external gates will be locked at 9:05am
* All external gates will be re-opened in the afternoon at 2:55 pm.
  • All access to the school between 9:05am and 2:55pm is made through the front office except in the case of a special school event.

* Three Teachers commence formal duty at 8:35am. It is important that parents realise children who are dropped at school before this time will not have direct teachers supervision. All children at school before 8:35am MUST sit with their bags in the K-2 eating area.
Afternoon Routine:
Byng St Site – Parent pick up only:
All children who have nominated to be picked up by a parent in the Byng St site meet the teacher on duty near the Year 5 Year 6 green area. They are walked over to the Byng St site. Parents are to meet children under the big tree on the Byng St site. If parents are not there children wait with the teacher on duty on the old infants bus lines. Please note there is ample parking in Byng St. If parents are not there by 3:40pm children walk with the teacher on duty to the front of Kenna Hall and stay under the supervision of the teachers on bus duty.

Hill St Site - Parent pick up:
All children who have nominated to be picked up by a parent in the Hill St site meet the teacher on duty in the Kindergarten – Year 2 Eating Area. They remain seated undercover until they are picked up. If parents are not there by 3:20pm children walk with the teacher on duty to the front of Kenna Hall and stay under the supervision of the teachers on bus duty.

Hill St Site – Bus exit:
Children meet the teacher on duty adjacent to the Year 2 exit in the new building and exit between Kenna Hall and the School. They wait in front of Kenna Hall in designated areas and must be walked to the bus by a teacher on duty.

Afternoon Wet Weather Routine:
If it is raining in the afternoon the following applies:
Hill St Pick up: The children wait in the Kindergarten – Year 2 Eating Area. Parents walk in and pick them up. If they haven’t been picked up by 3:20pm they are walked to in front of Kenna Hall to wait with the bus children.
Bus Children: Early bus children are walked to their bus as normal. The later bus children wait in the hallway near the Year 2 exit. They are walked out by the teacher on duty.
Byng St Pick Up children:Wait for the teachers on duty under the cover in front of 5L & 5C. They are walked over as normal by the teachers on duty. Any children who are not picked up immediately wait in the Foyer of the Byng St building.

Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behaviour Management Policy: The McAuley Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behaviour Management Policy includes a combination of proactive and reactive measures. A number of awards and rewards are aimed at recognising and rewarding expected behaviour at school. When children do make a wrong choice there is a level system in place to ensure there is a consequence for the child’s actions. At times particularly Kindergarten and Year 1 parents are very upset and concerned if their child receives a Level 1.

It is important to realise that Level 1 notes serve a number of purposes:
- to remind the child that they have made a minor wrong choice
- to inform the parents that their child has broken a minor school rule or expectation
- to have a record if the child repeats the offence or makes other wrong choices

If a child receives three Level 1’s in a term or a makes a serious wrong choice they are placed on a Level 2, which includes a lunch time detention and them missing out on the end of term reward. 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 end of year 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.

Level 3 is an afternoon detention, Level 4 is an in school suspension and Level 5 is where the child’s enrolment in the school is considered.

It is pleasing that we have had very few children receive a Level 4 in recent years. This is a direct result of the children being very aware of school rules, consequences if they make a wrong choice, their rights and responsibilities. It is paramount that teachers, parents and the executive of the school work together to ensure that our school is a safe place for all students and they are all aware of rules, expectations and consequences.

Learning for all...EXPECT, INSPIRE, ENGAGE.
Steve Maguire
Ash Wednesday: Today is Ash Wednesday. Thank you to all who joined us at Mass as we celebrated the beginning of the Lenten Season. During Mass, all children received Ashes on their foreheads. These ashes were made from the burnt palm leaves of last year’s Palm Sunday. They are a reminder that our earthly life is limited, but we will be with God for eternity. Ash Wednesday is a time of fasting for Catholics over the age of 14. We are asked not to eat meat on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday. Lent is a time when we can deepen our awareness of our relationship with God, and look carefully at how we can use the gifts that each of us has received to help others. To assist with this, the Parish will be setting up Lenten Groups. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the Parish House on 6362 2378.

Project Compassion: This year Caritas Australia is celebrating 50 years of Project Compassion with the theme “Learning More, Creating Change”. Based on Pope Francis’ proclamation that “Education is an act of hope”, this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Project Compassion is demonstrating how education, training and sharing knowledge is empowering individuals and communities in six countries around the world to transform their futures and create lasting change. Over the next few weeks, the children will be learning how even our small contributions can help to change the lives of these people significantly. Project Compassion Boxes and information will be sent home this week. Please take the time to look through the material and talk to your children about how we can help Caritas help these people.

Liturgies and Masses for this Term: Please find below the Liturgies and Masses timetable for Term 1. Please feel welcome to join us at any or all of our Liturgical celebrations.

Week 3: Wed 10th February: Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass 10:00am

Week 6: Wednesday 2nd March: Year 5 Grade Mass 12:30pm

Week 7: Thursday 10th March: Whole School Catholic School’s Week Mass 12:15pm

Week 8: Wednesday 16th March: Year 3 Grade Mass 12:30pm

Week 9: Thursday 24th March: Whole School Holy Week Ceremonies

Wishing you a great week,
God Bless,
Robyn Petty
MUSIC & DRAMA

Next week we are very excited to be hosting the Footsteps dance program.

See below a short description of the program.

The children will be able to showcase their dance moves at the Disco Thursday 18th February 2016.

Footsteps specialise in curriculum integrated school dance programs. Their programs use dance as a vehicle to develop students’ inter/intra personal skills, fitness levels and provide teachers with classroom resources that use dance as a starting point to help teachers educate across other curriculum areas. They thrive on supporting teachers with learning outcomes for their students. Their programs are not only exciting and fun for students but sustainable for teachers from dance floor to classroom.

Karen Snowden

SPORTS UNIFORM DAYS

Kindergarten – Year 2: Friday
Year 3 & Year 4 – Tuesday & Thursday
Year 5 & Year 6 – Wednesday & Friday

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be sent home with the eldest child in each family. If the eldest child in your family is away on a Wednesday a brother or sister can go to their class teacher to get the notes. All newsletters will be posted on the McAuley School website.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Cleo McGinley, Cooper Murray, Micaela Pantoja, Isabella Budworth, Emmasen Buesnell, Jack Petty, Charlotte Lawson, Eliza Machin, Archie Dunn, Maya Thompson, Jordan Wykes and Emily Mathews.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2015

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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
OUR NEW SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Our beautiful new school playground is now functional. Can we please ask all children and parents to stay off the grass for approximately the next 6 weeks until the grass is established. We would like to remind children and parents that playground equipment should not be played on in the afternoons by children either waiting for siblings to finish or after school.

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