FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy & Holy Christmas. Enjoy your holiday break, and we look forward to coming back refreshed and ready to take on the New Year.

Michael Croke

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - THURSDAY 24th December
NO 8.00am Mass at St Mary’s Church
6.00pm James Sheahan High School Mercy Hall, Anson St, Orange (northern end)
8.00pm St Mary’s Church, Park St, Orange
10.00pm St Joseph’s Church, Byng St, Orange

Christmas Day - FRIDAY 25th December
7.30am St Joseph’s Church Orange
9.00am St Joseph’s Church Orange
9.30am St Mary’s Church Orange
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Student of the Week:** Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Julia Loecker, Ted Healey, Lucy Battaglini O’Keefe, Vi Nguyen, Maeve Dean, Lewis Budworth, Harrison Stedman, Charlie Sharpe, Alexander O’Brien, Freya Bienek, Orlanda Manca, Matthew Rogers, Charli Hobbs, Bonnie Murphy, Matthew Allen, Liam Hurley, Patrick Joyce & Will Bingham.

**Year 5 Leadership Morning:** Last Thursday the Year 5 teachers and I worked with the Year 5 children on identifying Leadership qualities in others. The children identified leaders in our homes, schools, community, country and world. However the focus of the morning was on Jesus as a leader. Following the session the Year 5 children and all teachers voted for the 2016 McAuley Captains and Vice Captains. It is important to acknowledge that although four children receive official badges ALL YEAR 6 CHILDREN are considered leaders in our school and are expected to set a good example for all. The Captains will be announced at our final school Mass on Friday 11th December at 12.00pm.

**House Captains:** On Monday afternoon all children from Year 3 – Year 6 voted for House Captains for 2016. These captains will assist with the running of our House Points System, sports carnivals and also assist the School and Vice Captains. The House Captains will be announced at our final school Mass on Friday 11th December at 12.00pm.

**Rewards Day:** As the Year draws to an end the teachers are planning an end of year Reward Day to the pool, movies, ten pin bowling or something similar. 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 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Thursday 10th December – Botanic Gardens</td>
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<td>Year 1 - Year 3</td>
<td>Thursday 10th December - Movie and Adventure Playground</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Monday 14th December - Ten Pin Bowling</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Thursday 10th December - Blayney Pool</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Wednesday 9th December - Lake Canobolas</td>
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**Year 6 Mass & Farewell Thursday 10th December:** A reminder to the Year 6 Parents to send in the $25 to help with costs of the evening. A committee of Year 6 parents has been formed to organise the celebration following the Mass. A big Thank you to the Year 5 parents who have offered to help serve and clean up on the night.

**Christmas Cheer:** We are all getting very excited with Christmas fast approaching. Please do not send candy canes to school as they are often eaten at the wrong time and can lead to arguments in class or on the playground. They can be special treats to share at home.

Steve Maguire

**INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK**

When people first came to Australia 40,000 years ago, the land was covered with tropical forests, brimming lakes and snow-capped mountains.
Advent: This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday in Advent, and we light the rose coloured candle as a sign of hope. In this weekend’s Gospel from John we continue to hear from John the Baptist. The Jews, wanting to know why he is baptising people if he is not the messiah, are questioning him. “I baptise with water, but there stands among you the one who is coming after me.” As we draw closer to Christmas, the themes of Advent; anticipation, preparedness and hope, are evident. The celebration of the Nativity is confirmation that, like John, our hope is not misplaced. This weekend’s readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

Christmas Hampers: Thank you so much to those who have sent in items for our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Each year we are able to give these items to St Vincent de Paul for them to distribute among our Orange community, helping others to also enjoy this Christmas period. As they will be collected this Friday, could I please ask that anyone who has not yet had time to send in an item, please do so. Just one item per child makes a huge difference. Thank you once again for your wonderful generosity.

Parish Mass Celebration: Thank you so much for your wonderful support of our Parish Mass last Sunday evening. It was so good to have such a lot of families able to join us and participate in the various ministries of the Mass. A really big thank you to our group of Guitars, both the adults, and especially the children, it was just great and along with all the children in the choir, the music sounded fantastic! I know there were a lot of families who were unable to be with us, and I thank you for returning the notes. It showed what a wonderful, supportive community our Catherine McAuley family really is. I look forward to our two Masses next year!

Year 6 Farewell Mass: Our Year 6 will celebrate their Farewell Mass tonight, Thursday, 10th December at 6.00pm. This very special Mass will be followed by a celebration in Kenna Hall for our Year 6 students.

School End of Year Mass: Our Whole School End of Year Mass will be tomorrow, Friday 11th December at 12.00 noon. At this Mass we will also announce our Captains for 2016. It has been wonderful having such support from parents, friends and families throughout the year, and we look forward to your presence for our last Liturgical Celebration.

Christmas Mass Times: Dates and times for Christmas Masses and Reconciliation will be sent this week on a separate flyer. Please take note of these times, as they are slightly different to normal weekend Mass times.

Thank You! It has been a very big year, with many things asked of families. Thank you for all you have given to our school and for your generosity towards our many fundraising and Parish activities. I pray you have a very happy and Holy Christmas, and a restful time over the break.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!
Robyn Petty
LIBRARY

As the year quickly comes to a close I would like to thank all the students who have returned their library books to the library. There are still a few overdue books to return so it would be great if these could be returned to school tomorrow. Years K-2 Library bags will be kept at school and the Year 3-6 Library bags go home to be kept in a safe spot till 2016.

The Christmas holidays are a great time to spend some time at the Orange City Library. If you are not already a member then why not join up. It is free!

Why not visit the Freya Blackwood Art Exhibition "Drawing Stories" at the Orange Regional Art Gallery during the holidays. It is a fabulous display of Freya's beautiful artwork from her numerous award winning picture books. The students will recognise all the wonderful illustrations on display.

A big congratulations goes to Adut Thit (5L) who was awarded first prize in the Collins Book Shop and Little Hare Books Art competition. Adut's entry was judged first by the author of the retold story "The Nutcracker", Margrete Lamond. The illustrator Ritva Voutilä's drawings were the basis for the competition. Jack Martyr (5L) and Ella Kostitch (5F) tied in second place.

Premier's Reading Challenge certificates will be handed out next week. Congratulations to all of the 205 children who completed the challenge. An extra congratulations goes to Aaron Cox (6P) and Jade Edwards (4G) who received a Gold Certificate for completing the Challenge four years in a row. What an effort! Well done everyone.

Over the holidays the library will be receiving some new shelving and rearrangement of furniture so I can't wait to reveal the Library makeover in 2016. See you all then.

Catherine Bishenden

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week and before the end of 2015: Lucy Battaglini-O’Keeffe, Isabella Cheney, Milan Shaji, Thomas French, Liam Fraser, Cooper Lawry, Macey Lenehan, Cassidy Hanrahan, Amelia Hogben, Harrison Telford, Marc Mabalo, Patrick Joyce, Thomas Madigan, Elizabeth Hazzard, Samantha Stiller, Imogen Jenner, Emi Parkes, Sean Donato, Riley Allen, Nicholas Bennett, Jaimie Sijo, Lachlan Wykes, Jade Edwards, Francesca Martelli, Emilia Takari, Addison Gardner, Luciano Manca, Chelsea Turner, Christina Culmone, Daisy Bohringer, Lachlan Newman, Cooper Agland, Lance Milne, Ally-Rose Madden, Mitchell Crean, Ruby Dover, Antonia Lander, Lillian Burman, Charlize Spurr and Angel Tom.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 14th December to Wednesday 16th December 2015

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<th>Day</th>
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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
Students were asked to write the story of the birth of Jesus as if they were the child of the Inn-Keeper who offered his stable to Mary and Joseph.

**The Birth of Baby Jesus**

Hi! I’m Freya, and I want to tell you a story that happened 4 years ago! I still remember what happened at Dad’s inn on a very special night...

Caesar Augustus had ordered everyone out of their houses to be counted, and our inn was full to the brim with people! It was so full that I couldn’t sleep a wink, because of all the noise upstairs! But later, that night, I heard a weird sound. It sounded like a donkey braying, but that didn’t seem possible, because the donkeys we have would have been asleep by then.

I was just going to check on them, when I heard Mum and Dad talking. I looked out the window and saw a lady on a donkey with a man standing beside her. The lady on the donkey was VERY pregnant! I heard Dad saying that they could use the stables out the back, as we had no room inside.

I lay awake for a while wondering about the lady and her baby. Finally, after what seemed like an hour or so, I decided to go and see how they were settling in the stable. I climbed out my window, as I’m on the first floor, and dropped down. Then I crept to the stables, climbed in the side window without being seen, and hid behind a pile of hay. I saw that the man must have piled some hay stacks behind the lady, to make a bed for her. I noticed a small bundle wrapped up in cloth that the lady was cuddling close to her, which she laid carefully in a feeding box lined with straw. I couldn’t help wondering what was in the bundle and why it was so important. I suddenly heard a faint cry, and realised that inside the bundle was...the baby!

Suddenly, I caught a glimpse of something shining in the sky. It was a star, but not the ordinary sort of star you see every night. This star seemed to be shining right over the stables, like an important event had just happened in the stables... But what?

I continued to look out the window, mesmerised by the star. Suddenly, I saw a group of shepherds coming to the stables. As they came closer, I could hear them talking about angels, and for some reason, they looked a bit bewildered. As they came in, I watched them and noticed the animals bowing down to the baby! I wondered what this was all about, and then I heard the lady talking to the shepherds.

I learned that the baby is God’s son!! I could hardly believe it! I also learnt that the baby’s name was Jesus. I had never heard that name before. I was starting to wonder about the baby Jesus, and where the name Jesus came from, but I could barely keep my eyes open any longer. Trying to stay awake to get there, I reluctantly climbed out the window, crept back to my room and went to sleep.

That’s all I remember from that evening. My parents didn’t find out until much later that I went down to the stables that night, and when I told them all about the baby, and the star, and the shepherds talking about angels, and the bowing animals – well, they said that sometimes I have very imaginative dreams.
The Birth of Baby Jesus

Hi, my name is Jack and I am going to tell you about a very special night at my parents inn.

Last year, Caesar Augustus was gathering people in the town where I live, called Bethlehem. This was part of a new rule where every person needs to be registered (or counted).

When I was about to go to bed, a man and a pregnant lady came to the door of our inn. The lady was sitting on a donkey and the man was leading the donkey. The lady looked exhausted. They were looking for a room to sleep in but couldn’t find any anywhere. All the rooms were full at our inn too, but because Mum felt sorry for the lady, she offered for them to sleep in our stable. The man and the lady, whose names were Joseph and Mary, were very grateful and agreed to stay the night.

I offered to show Joseph and Mary to the stable which was behind the inn. The stable was pretty dark and smelt like hay, dirt and animal droppings. I could hear the sounds of the animals in the stable (moos, neighs, snorts, woofs and baas). I hoped that Mary and Joseph were able to sleep with all that noise!

Later that night, after Mum had put me to bed, a bright light shone through my window and woke me up. I could hear people talking outside and decided to climb out of my window and see what was happening. When I looked into the sky, I could see the biggest and brightest star I had ever seen, right above the stable.

I ran over to the stable where a group of shepherds stood talking excitedly. When I asked what was happening, one of the shepherds told me that angels had appeared to them while they were caring for the sheep, and told them that a saviour had been born. The shepherd told me he was very frightened when he first seen the angels, but everyone was very curious about the news that had been delivered. The shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem and see if the angels were being truthful.

I looked into the stable and could see Mary looking after a new baby who was lying in a manger, and I realized that this must be the saviour that the angel told the shepherds about. All the shepherds were very excited and telling the story to everyone who came to see what was happening.

I felt very lucky that the baby, who was named Jesus, was born at my family’s stable.

Jack 3A

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JUNIOR CHESS TOURNAMENT - ORANGE
St Barnabas Anglican Church Parish Hall
Corner Dora and McLachlan Streets
Thursday 21st January 2016

Register by 19th January 2016 by Contacting:

1. Alexander Aich    Ph 6884 4561
   alexander.aich@gmail.com
2. Joe Cummins       Ph 6362 6882
   heather.cummins@optusnet.com.au