FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is wonderful to see the rain that has fallen this week whether we have 1,000 acres of crop that we have just sown or our garden is limited to two pot plants on a window sill! I thank all parents for their cooperation during these wet days and just a gentle reminder to have all wet weather clothes labelled. On other gentle reminders, we have probably noticed that one of the newer facets of modern schools (from pre school to high school) is the matter of school security. We have to be very vigilant with your children in having a secure school so that complete strangers cannot enter our school ground and interact with the children. All our school gates are locked at 9:05am to counter this sad reality. As we move into Term 2 we are probably also at the stage of "drop and go" for students (especially Infants students) as opposed to parents and carers spending time in the school playground waiting for the bell to ring. Without being too dramatic or alarming it also enables us to identify any adults in the playground who maybe are not connected with the students. It certainly makes playground duty easier for the teachers and may enable parents to get a morning coffee quicker!! I thank all parents for your assistance in these matters.

Michael Croke

Our Devine Redeemer

It is said of our divine Redeemer that He was always pleasing to behold and never sad or troublesome.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Lochie Connaughton: I just wanted to say a big thank you to all for your efforts yesterday to ensure the Connaughton family felt supported by the McAuley school community. From assisting with the balloons, wearing green on the day, attending the funeral or supervising the children in the hall. We all did our bit to ensure the Connaughton's know the McAuley Staff and Community have them firmly in our prayers and thoughts. Lockie’s passing has been a tragic accident that has effected many lives forever. However the support and love from so many people at the funeral and leading up to it has been amazing and appreciated by George, Cindy, Maddie and Ollie. Once again thank you and please keep the Connaughton family in your prayers.

Professional Learning: Sarah McDonough ran our staff meeting yesterday looking at our DIBELS (reading test administered three times a year across all Bathurst Diocesan Schools) results and explained what we need to do to improve the children’s reading. She will be at next week’s staff meeting to show the staff four strategies to improve reading fluency. As well as our Protected Learning Time from 9:00am – 11:00am Monday to Thursday we also have a dedicated time for instruction on Reading from 11:20am – 12:00pm. Sarah’s ideas and strategies will be utilised in this time.

NAPLAN: The children in Year 3 and Year 6 sat the NAPLAN this week. It is important to acknowledge that these assessments on Mathematics, Writing, Reading and Language Conventions test basic skills and knowledge. Thank you to all the teachers for ensuring the school was quiet during these tests and the children in Year 3 and Year 5 were relaxed about it.

ICAS Tests: As in previous years, students in Year 3 to Year 6 will be able to nominate and sit the ICAS tests for Mathematics and English. Catherine McAuley will offer students the opportunity to sit the English Tuesday 2nd June and Mathematics Tuesday 16th August. A note has been sent home asking for nominations and payment for children wishing to sit these external tests. The cost will be $9.00 per test.

Southern Region Athletics Carnival: The Southern Region Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 29th July in Canowindra. Notes have been sent home with the children who will represent Catherine McAuley at the carnival.

Steve Maguire
**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.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (*Acts* 2:1-4)

**First Communion:** Our Year 3 children have now begun their preparation for their First Holy Communion, which will be administered on the weekend of 4th and 5th June 2016 at all Parish Masses. Enrolments for this Sacrament closed last Friday 6th May, however if you have not yet registered you have until this Friday before you will have to wait until next year to receive First Communion. I have forms at school if needed, which are to be returned to the Parish Office. Please keep these young people in your prayers and they prepare for this very important Sacrament.

**Parish Mass Celebration:** The McAuley School Community has been invited to assist with the Parish Mass on Sunday, 29th May at St Joseph’s Church at 5:00pm. We will be responsible for providing the music and helping with some of the different ministries throughout the Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to be involved in a Parish Mass, so could I please encourage all families to consider attending this Mass to support our students.

**Mothers’ Day:** I hope everyone had a lovely Mothers’ Day last weekend. I would like to extend a very special ‘thank you’ to Mrs Brooke Church for preparing and running such a beautiful Liturgy for this special occasion. Thank you to all who sent in photos for the powerpoint and I apologise if I was unable to include your photo due to time constraints. Thank you to all mothers for the wonderful work that you do each day to make our children’s lives so great!

**Religious Education Coordinators Meeting:** I attended the REC’s annual meeting last week in Bathurst along with Mrs Trish Aumuller, with the theme of the meeting centering around Liturgical music aimed at attracting young people to the Liturgy. This was a wonderful opportunity to see how contemporary Catholic music can be incorporated into our Masses and liturgies and support young people, giving them a chance to see the relevance of Liturgy for them. The musical team running the conference was ‘Emmanuel Worship’, and are based in Brisbane. I look forward to using some of this new music with our students very soon.

**Liturgies For This Term:** Congratulations to Year 6 who hosted a beautiful Grade Mass today on the Ascension. The children really enjoyed having their families there to join them at Mass. Our next Grade celebration will be on 1st June with our Year 3 children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for First Communion. This will be followed by our Year 4 Grade Mass on 8th June at 12:30pm. Once again, all family and friends are very welcome to join us.

God Bless,

Robyn Petty
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Locking of Gates

Securing the Catherine McAuley site is of paramount importance to ensure the safety of our students. For this reason, we remind parents that gates are locked at 9:05 am and re-opened at 2:45pm each day. The gates are locked at this early part of the day to ensure safety and also to limit interruption to the learning for our Year 6 House Captains who have the role of locking and unlocking the gates. It is a priority of the school to ensure “protected learning time” in that optimum learning time between 9:00am and 11:00am each day. Any child who arrives after the gates are locked at 9:05am must enter through the main office front door to be signed in by a parent or guardian.

Robotics

There is a significant thrust in education toward STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics). Part of that focus is the use of robotics to engage students in problem solving situations and also to teach early coding. Robotics provides a highly engaging medium for creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication – four essential skills for learning and ICT within a curriculum context.

We are lucky enough to have The CEO robotics kits for the next two and a half weeks. Over this time each and every student in the school will have at least one opportunity to use the kits.

As staff and students become more familiar with these excellent learning tools we will look to purchasing our own kits in the future.

Clare Miller

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

People’s body temperature drops when they watch videos of other people putting their hands into cold water.
**MINI VINNIES COMMISSIONING CEREMONY**

A Mini Vinnies Commissioning Ceremony will be held during the parish mass on Sunday 19th June 2016 at St Mary’s Church at 9:30am. Members of Mini Vinnies will receive their St Vincent De Paul badge and be officially commissioned by Fr Garry and members of St Vincent De Paul. Please come along and support the wonderful work these children are doing. Mass will be followed by morning tea on the church lawn.

Camille da Silva Tavares

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**PLC**

Last Tuesday, Catherine McAuley hosted our PLC Network day. PLC facilitators from St Mary’s and St Joseph’s, Blayney along with myself and Pauline Walkom from the Catholic Education Office met to share ideas around teacher collaboration, student learning, assessment, student data, intervention and enrichment. It has been wonderful to see how our Catholic schools in the diocese have been able to support each other in implementing the Professional Learning Community model.

Camille da Silva Tavares

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**BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week:* Oliver Connaughton, Ted Healey, Wil Kennedy, Laura Daniel, Edwina Johnson, Romey Westgeest, Julia Loecker and Jackson Rodwell.

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**TUCKSHOP**

Roster—Commencing Monday 16th May to Friday 20th May 2016

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<td>J Griffiths / S Mendel / R Wasow / R Fraser / B Spurr * 12:45 - 1:45pm</td>
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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
ORANGE PUSH for PALLIATIVE

"Palliative Care is about quality of Life."

Save the Date

Orange Palliative Care Forum
Sunday 29th May 2016
Orange Ex-Services Club
10am – 4 pm

Orange Push for Palliative together with Orange Health Service will present an informative day regarding palliative care & end of life issues.

It will aim to demystify palliative care and empower people to have critical conversations with their families about end of life choices.

There will be representatives from the State & Commonwealth to explain the complex issues that surround end of life care.

Guest speakers:

Gail & Juliette O'Brien : Gail is the wife of celebrated cancer surgeon. Since Chris’s death in 2009 from a brain tumour Gail has become a powerful advocate for ‘good palliative care’. Her daughter Juliette has just published a book on her life ‘This is Gail’.

Dr Kerry Chant : Chief Health Officer, Public & Population Health, representing the Hon. Jillian Skinner Minister of Health

Dr Yvonne McMaster : Retired palliative care specialist and mastermind of NSW Push for Palliative

Professor Amanda Walker: Clinical Advisor CEC End of Life care, Senior Staff Specialist in Palliative Medicine, SWSLHD. Prof. Walker is a renowned speaker on the importance of Advanced Care Planning for people at the end of life.

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