I'm sure many parents and families enjoyed the 4 days break afforded them last weekend. The holiday on Monday was courtesy of Her Majesty the Queen (even though her actual birthday is in April!). The pupil free day on the Friday was due to the fact that teachers were attending their annual staff spiritual retreat in Carcoar.

The purpose of the retreat is for the staff to spend some time together in prayer and contemplation thinking about the work they do as teachers in Catholic schools and as teachers whose main task is to educate and guide children in our Catholic faith. Just as workers in the commercial world are often whisked off to big cities to be rejuvenated in their skills and practices so it is with teachers taking time out to reflect on the job they do and the messages they are giving. This year the retreat was directed by Father Pat Ruane who talked of the wonder and mystery of God. He also told of his days growing up in Ireland with no electricity and hence no radio or television. Not a great thought given the long dark nights of the Irish winter. No wonder Ireland is famous for its whiskey! Our founder Catherine McAuley would have known the same conditions.

Given Catherine McAuley School is such a big staff and it is possible to go for a week and not engage with some staff members it was a great chance to get together to get to know each other a little better, all in the name of making us a stronger community.

Michael Croke

CONFIRMATION MASS
Tomorrow (Thursday) 12th June, 10:00am

YEAR 3 MASS WEDNESDAY
18th June, 12:30pm

MUSIC MANIFESTO FRIDAY 20TH JUNE
Year 4 Whole School Assembly Friday 27th June, 10am

MORE THAN CHARITY
Mercy is more than Charity - for it not only bestows benefits, but it receives and pardons again and again - Even the ungrateful.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Whole School Assembly:  The next Whole School Assembly will be on Friday 27th June at 10:00am.  (Please note the change of date to the last day of term).  It will be lead by Year 4 in Kenna Hall.  Everyone is welcome.

Professional Learning:  This week Mr Croke, Mrs Petty, Mrs Miller and myself attended an in-service on Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s).  We are one of nine schools in the Diocese who are working with PLC Educators this year.  The definition of a Professional Learning Community is educators committed to working collaboratively in ongoing process of inquiry and action research in order to achieve better results for the students they serve.  The idea in PLC’s is that all children can learn to the expected level of each grade and the three big ideas that allow this to happen are:  a focus on learning rather than teaching, teachers must work collaboratively on matters related to learning and that we are accountable for results that fuel continual improvement.  This continues our shift from the focus on teaching to a focus on learning that is being encouraged by the Bathurst CEO.

Bullying in Schools:  It is important that we address any reports of bullying in our school.  We have processes in place in our Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behaviour Management Policy to address bullying.  It is important for parents to be aware of the definition of bullying.  It is not a one off incident, these incidents are also addressed in our Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behaviour Management Policy.  Please find the following excerpt from our policy:

- Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons.  Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

- Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimisation and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender.  Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders.

- Bullying can happen anywhere:  at school, travelling to and from school, in sporting teams, between neighbours or in the workplace.

- Bullying behaviour can be:
  - verbal (eg) name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
  - physical (eg) hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
  - social (eg) ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
  - psychological (eg) spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions,
  - malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones

- Conflict or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying.

- Bullying behaviour is not:
  - children not getting along well
  - a situation of mutual conflict
  - single episodes of nastiness or random acts of aggression or intimidation

Continued next page...
**Reports:** Teachers are currently assessing and writing progress reports for all children. The Reports from K-6 will be produced on the computer to ensure consistency. Year 1 to Year 6 will be in the A-E grading format. Kindergarten Reports will not be in the form of A-E grading. The Kindergarten Report endeavours to provide parents with as much information as possible on your child’s first two terms at Primary School. More information regarding reports will be enclosed in the envelope that will help explain the grades and keys that we have used. Reports will be sent home with children on Friday 20th June. Children who have recently arrived at our school will receive a summary report consisting of work habits, social skills and a general comment. They will receive a full academic report in December.

**Kindergarten Enrolments:** Enrolments for Kindergarten 2015 have now closed. Families new to the school have been invited to attend an interview with their child, which includes a tour of the school. The large number of applications for Kindergarten 2015 reflects the good name our school enjoys in the local community. Our process of enrolment is that children must be 5 years of age by 30th April of their first year at school. Places are offered in the following order: sibling of children in our school, then Catholic children and if there are places left they are offered to non Catholic children who have enrolled.

**Music Manifesto:** Our Senior Choir and Concert Band will perform in the Sheahan Music Manifesto on Friday 20th June. The students have attended two workshops with the musicians from James Sheahan. Thank you to Mrs Allan and Mrs Aumuller for providing the children with this experience.

**Debating:** We are currently in the process of organising debating workshops and a Year 6 Debating Competition with the children of St Mary’s. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop communication skills. Thank you to Mrs Connor and Mrs Rosser for providing the children with this experience.

**Just Like Me:** Over the next two weeks the Year 5 children will take part in the Just Like Me Program that helps them appreciate the challenges faced by people living with a disability. It also points out that these people are just like them.

Steve Maguire

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**MINI VINNIES**

Mini Vinnies is raising money for St Vincent De Paul and we are selling handmade bookmarks at 50 cents each. The bookmarks will be for sale **from the Canteen next Tuesday (17th June) at the 2nd half of lunch**. Please support the hard work our Mini Vinnies children are doing by purchasing a bookmark with all money raised going to St Vincent De Paul.

Anne Mulligan
Trinity Sunday: This weekend we celebrate Trinity Sunday, when we acknowledge the Three Persons of the One God. Each time we pray the Sign of the Cross, we acknowledge the Blessed Trinity - God the Father, our Creator, God the Son, our Redeemer and God the Holy Spirit, our Helper and Guide. When prayed with meaning, even through this simplest of prayers to the Trinity, we are deepening our knowledge and love for our God.

Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass: Tomorrow we will celebrate our Mass in honour of our Year 6 Confirmation Candidates. Mass will be at 10am, followed by a little celebration, complete with Confirmation Cake. We are very proud of our students who have taken the final step in their initiation into the Catholic Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this new stage of their faith journey. You are very welcome to join us tomorrow for this special Mass.

First Holy Communion: Thank you to all who came to the Parent Meeting for First Holy Communion last night. We have now started our preparation for this Sacrament, which will be received on the weekend of 26th & 27th July. All enrolment forms for First Communion will be sent home today, and are due to be returned to the Parish Office by next Wednesday, 18th June. If you did not receive an enrolment form, please contact me as soon as possible.

Year Three Liturgy: Year Three will celebrate their Grade Mass next Wednesday, 18th June at 12.30pm. All family and friends are very welcome to join Year Three in St Joseph’s Church for this special celebration.

God Bless,
Robyn Petty

PARISH MATTERS

If you are an adult who is interested in being baptised or becoming a Catholic through Confirmation and First Eucharist, then come to the R.C. I. A. Enquiry Night at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th July in Kenna Hall Meeting Room. For more information contact Sr Helen at the Parish Office on 6362 2378.

Sr Helen

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

Since its discovery in 1930, Pluto has travelled only a third of its way round the Sun.
MUSIC & DRAMA

Last Wednesday all students were entertained by a performance from The Chambermaids Quintet. The children loved watching and listening to them play different wind instruments. They were also invited to conduct and dance. A great time was had by all.

Karen Snowden & Anne Allan

LIBRARY

Book Club
Book Club is due back at school by Thursday, 12th June. Please ensure all details are filled in on the order form before placing it in a clearly labelled envelope.

Elizabeth Sergeant

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children: Emily Caulfield, Alexander Hobbs, Layla Duffy, Alyssa Acheson, Rhiannon Millar, Lachlan Mason

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 16th June to Friday 20th June, 2014

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