It is hard to believe that the 2016 school year comes to a close this Friday. I want to thank all members of our school community, especially parents and students, on being part of a wonderful year and supporting our school on all levels. I wish any students (especially Grade 6) and parents who are leaving McAuley the very best for the future and I thank you for your efforts in being part of the McAuley family.

I would like to pay a special tribute to all the staff of Catherine McAuley. Catherine McAuley is a very large school and our staff extends to teachers, student assistants, secretaries, cleaners etc. I thank them all for their efforts. They all go above and beyond their designated duties.

It is with great sadness that we a say farewell to some wonderful people on our staff. The staffroom "card shark" Mr Stephen Ranger has accepted a position in Sydney. Mrs Church will be welcoming a new member to her family. Sr Carmel Quade will finish up at the end of this year and there will be a special farewell for Sr Carmel in 2017. As mentioned last week Mrs Clare Miller will be moving to Sydney. Clare has been an integral part of the Sacred Heart/Catherine McAuley landscape for nearly 20 years, and had so many pivotal roles in the "construction" of Catherine McAuley. Her departure is leaving us all with a very heavy heart and she will be missed on so many fronts. We wish her and her family all the very best as they enter the next chapter of their lives, as we come to grips with the fact that we will start Day 1 next year as a "Clare Miller less" school!

We also were given the sad news last week that Fr Garry is leaving us to take up a position in Lithgow. We thank him for his wit and wisdom safe in the knowledge that the Lithgow Orange road is now sealed and we expect him to visit us often!

I wish everyone a happy and a holy Christmas.

Michael Croke
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL


**Change to Staffing for 2017:** Staffing for the 21 classes at Catherine McAuley has been finalised for 2107 and is listed below.

**Kindergarten:**
- Sue Derwin
- Marg Wright
- Catherine Sutton

**Year 1:**
- Madelyn Colquhoun & Anna White
- Bel Forbes & Peta Lidster
- Debbie Prestwidge

**Year 4:**
- Gerry Gough
- Eleanor Bettinzoli
- Anne Mulligan

**Year 6:**
- Scott Hudson
- Robyn Petty & Gai Rosser
- Camille Tavares & Kate Wright

**Year 2:**
- Jennene Carpenter
- Helen Cracknell
- Lucy Connor & Marianne Niven

**Year 3:**
- Mark Sheridan
- Trish Aumuller & Shannon Cain
- Georgie Haydon & Monique Dunn

**Year 5:**
- LeeAnn Hazelton & Kim Pellow
- Sharyn Fitzgerald
- Helen Croke

**Leaders for 2017:** It is important to acknowledge that although twelve 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, Vice Captains and House Captains were announced at our final school Mass today.

**Year 6 Mass & Farewell:** A big thank you to the Year 6 and Year 5 parents who put so much effort into the Year 6 Farewell dinner. From organising the food, setting up, serving and cleaning up all your efforts ensured the success of the evening. Special thanks to the children who helped on the night as well. Thank you to the Year 6 parents for bringing all the food for families to share. Thank you to Mel Milne for making the Farewell cake and Fresh Fodder for donating food for the teachers. Organisation of the Farewell Dinner this year was so low key and without stress. One factor that contributed to that was the number of helpers from both year 6 and Year 5. It was appreciated that we had so much support and help.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Catherine McAuley School Community a very holy Christmas and a safe happy holiday. I thank you for your support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

Steve Maguire
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. Thank you once again for your wonderful generosity.

Year 6 Farewell Mass: Our Year 6 celebrated their Farewell Mass last night. The Mass was followed by a celebration in Kenna Hall. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this evening very special for our Year 6 students.

School End of Year Mass: Our Whole School End of Year Mass was held today. It has been wonderful having such support from parents, friends and families throughout the year.

Christmas Mass Times: Dates and times for Christmas Masses are included below. 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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December
6:00pm    James Sheahan High School Mercy Hall
8:00pm    St Mary’s Church
10:00pm   St Joseph’s Church

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December
8:00am    St Joseph’s Church
8:00am    St Brendan’s Mullion Creek (outdoors)
9:30am    St Mary’s Church
Dear Catherine McAuley Community

I would like to humbly invite you to join our merry band of musicians and singers to lead the Christmas Vigil Mass at James Sheahans' Mercy Hall at 6:00pm Christmas Eve.

Singers, guitarists most warmly welcomed (adults too). We will have a run through of the selected carols from 5:15pm prior to the mass commencing. We will also have a selection of percussion instruments for the children to play along with.

I thank you in advance for considering joining us for this very beautiful Mass.

Trish Aumuller
Music Ministry

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week and over the school holidays till the end of December: Cassidy Hanrahan, Amelia Hogben, Thomas Wythes, Marc Mabalo, Cooper Eatell, Molly Edwards, Elizabeth Hazzard, Charlie Isaacs, Samantha Stiller, Imogen Jenner, Tynai Meyenn, Ryder Meyenn, Riley Allen, Nicholas Bennett, Jaimie Sijo, Lachlan Wykes, Jade Edwards, Francesca Martelli, Addison Gardner, Ruby Kingham, Luciano Manca, Chelsea Turner, Daisy Bohringer, Lachlan Newman, Kamala Raman, Cooper Agland, Ally-Rose Madden, Hans Pangilinan, Mitchell Crean, Ruby Dover, Spencer Wilde, Antonia Lander, Lillian Burman, Charlize Spurr and Angel Tom.

Tuckshop Roster—Commencing Monday 30th January 2017 to Friday 3rd February 2017

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>9.30am—11.30am</th>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>K Callaghan / P Taberner</td>
<td>Nicole Day / P Crain / E Kingham / S Rowland</td>
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Tuckshop Ph:  6362 0942

Interesting Fact of the Week

A single human brain has more switches than all the computers and internet connections on earth.