FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At Catherine McAuley we have spent a lot of time lately just making sure that children remember their manners when greeting each other and particularly adults that they encounter in the school. It costs nothing to greet each other with a warm smile and a simple "how are you". This is also entwined with the "please and thank you" that we hope are part of everyday manners. My unbiased opinion is that the Catherine McAuley students set a high standard in this area, and I will say if this is modelled at home the task of the school is made very easy.

On this score I always enjoy those times in the mornings and afternoons as I witness parents greet their children in the afternoon and vice versa. Depending on the weather and the "hurriedness of the pickup" I continually hear parents effusive in their greetings (How was your day?) and always delighted to see their children and grandchildren and I can see the feelings are mutual. I know that many parents and grandparents take some time off work so they can pick up their children.

First impressions and first greetings are very important for all of us, especially young children and can make or break the hours that follow. There is no place for a grumpy greeting even if it's the one that's coming to mind! It is probably worth noting that 50 years ago there would have been no pickups at school by adults. Families had only one car or none. No father would have been able to get time off work and he would have had the one car, and because women were only a small percentage of the workforce (many workplaces made women resign they day they got engaged!) they would have been in the family home. Most children walked home very long distances. Buses were only for those children on farms.

Michael Croke

Won't you pray fervently that we may all have a profitable holy retreat. May almighty God help us to make it well.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
McAuley School Rules:

**Faith:** God’s rules are: 1. Love God
2. Love others – Treat others how you want them to treat you.

**Justice:** - Make positive choices

**Respect:** - Respect yourself, others and the school environment

**Service:** - Help others in our school and the world

**Learning:** - Learn and let others learn

**Focus for the Week:** “Use Appropriate Language”

This week’s rule comes from “**Respect**” – **Respect yourself, others and the school environment.**

There is no need for anyone at McAuley to use inappropriate language. Using inappropriate language shows a lack of respect for yourself and others. Occasionally children do use inappropriate language at school and it is dealt with immediately with a consequence. **INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE IS NOT TOLERATED AT McAULEY.**

**Behaviour Management Trial:** The new behavior management trial is working well. Children are receiving an immediate consequence for unacceptable behaviour. The incident and the consequence is recorded and parents are contacted if the incident is serious or if a child has a number of incidents. Withdrawal from class and the playground for the day (or days) is an option if the behaviour is serious or a child has a number of incidents. A child could miss end of term rewards in consultation with the class teacher, parents would be informed if this was the case.

**Staffing for 2017:** The teachers grades for 2017 were printed on the front of last week’s newsletter. It is important to remember that the McAuley policy is not to change classes once they have been finalised and parents are informed of the class their child will be in for the following year.

**Afternoon Routine:** It is crucial that parents or carers get out of their car and come and collect their children from the pick up points in Hill St and Byng St. This rule is in place to ensure the safety of all children. **This week we have begun a new practice of the children being picked up at Byng St waiting under the big shelter at the back of the Byng St building.** If you need to change the afternoon pick up arrangements in any way please put your request in writing and send it to your child’s class teacher.

**Touch Football:** Congratulations to the 30 Year 5 children who represented McAuley at the NSW Touch Gala day last Thursday. It was a fantastic day with some great touch skills on display. All games were played in great spirit and the children had a lot of fun. A big Thank you to Mrs Dean and her Year 11 girls from Sheahan for coaching our teams they did a great job. A big thank you to parents and grandparents for supporting the teams.

**Technology at School:** A reminder that students are not to have mobile phones, ipods and other technology at school. If it is necessary that they bring such a device then it is to be given to the class teacher at the beginning of the day and collected at the conclusion of school. Important messages can be delivered via the school office.

Steve Maguire
Feast of Christ the King: This weekend we celebrate the end of the Church’s Liturgical Year, with the Feast of Christ the King. This special feast honours Christ as our Universal King; one who, unlike many in powerful positions, loved people more than things, spoke the truth with love, and died that we might live. Perhaps we could take time this weekend to reflect on Jesus’ unselfish love, and see where we could try to follow his example in our own lives.

Christmas Hampers: It’s time again to organise our annual Christmas Hampers for St Vincent de Paul. Each year we ask families to send in non-perishable goods, which can be used to fill food hampers for those less fortunate than ourselves in our community. These hampers are then given to St Vincent de Paul for distribution around our local community, bringing the Spirit of Christmas to those who really need it. We have been given a list of the food types most needed by St Vincent de Paul, which will accompany this newsletter. We will start collecting Hamper items from the beginning of next week, so could you please have a look at the list and when you are in the Supermarket, perhaps you could add just one more item to your shopping list, which you can send in for these hampers. If each child brings in just one item, our hampers will make a huge difference!

First Reconciliation: This week our Year 2 students and several other children throughout the school are receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Congratulations to all these students, and to their wonderful teachers who prepared them so well. A special ‘thank you’ to Mrs Brooke Church who in her role of Parish Sacramental Coordinator, has worked hard to make this Sacrament, like all Sacraments in the Parish this year, a smooth and lovely experience for the Candidates and their families.

Liturgical Music Workshop: As mentioned last week, on Monday, 28th November, students and teachers from James Sheahan will conduct a Liturgical Music Day at the Conservatorium with both McAuley and St Mary’s students. This day will give our Year 5 & 6 students a chance to learn modern Liturgical music and experience an opportunity to be part of a large scale musical gathering. A permission note will go out today for those in Year 5 & Year 6 who may be interested in attending this workshop. As there will be a limited number of places available (10 musicians and 30 singers from each school) it will be important for those who wish to attend to return permission forms quickly. Priority will be given to Year 6 students who will be attending James Sheahan next year.

November – the Month of the Holy Souls: Please continue to pray for the Holy Souls during this month of November. The Church asks us to remember and pray for all those we love, who are no longer with us. In turn, these Holy souls are able to pray for us. If you haven’t done so already, please take the opportunity to record the names of those whom you have loved and lost in the ‘Book of Remembrance’, which is in each of the Parish Churches. This book is taken up in the Offertory Procession at each Mass during November, and those recorded in the book are prayed for.

Liturgies and Masses: What a beautiful Kinder Liturgy we had today! Thank you to all who came along today to join Kinder as they celebrated their Grade Liturgy, and our final Grade Liturgical Celebration for 2016! Next Wednesday 23rd November, we will have a whole school celebration in thanksgiving for the Year Two First Reconciliation. As always, families and friends are very welcome to join us for our Liturgical Celebrations. There will be a little party in Kenna Hall after the First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass for the candidates. Parents and families of the candidates are invited to join us to ‘cut the cake’ in Kenna Hall.

End of Year Masses: Our Year 6 will celebrate their Farewell Mass on Tuesday, 13th December at 6pm followed by a dinner in Kenna Hall. Our End of Year Mass will take place the following day, Wednesday, 14th December at 12.15pm. During this Mass the Captains for 2017 will be announced. 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 few Liturgical Celebrations.

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,

Robyn Petty
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Just past the middle of Term 4 and our students are beginning to realise that it is not long and they will be moving on and upward to the next grade. In recent years this has caused some anxiety with students for one reason or another.

It’s a new grade, it will be harder, the teacher is new, I'm not in the same class as my friend anymore.

Here are a few helpful tips to guide a smooth transition.

**Play up personal strengths**

In a competitive society, many kids strive to be the best, the fastest, the smartest, and they want to do it all first. If being the best is your child’s fixed priority, help them to restructure their focus to achieving personal strengths and celebrating individual accomplishments.

**Provide opportunities to try out new things**

Some students are often “risk evaders,” who fear trying something new, in the event that they are not immediately and effortlessly good at it. Offer your child many opportunities to try new activities, sports and projects without the pressure of having to be good at them right away.

**Celebrate mistakes**

That’s right. As parents make a big deal out of your own mistakes, letting your child know that it is only through making errors that you have had the opportunity to learn and grow. Let your child know that even some famous people make mistakes and are still champions, so can they!

**Praise hard work and effort**

Probably the most valuable lesson parents can give their children is to focus praise on hard work, efforts, and persistence rather than on outcomes, scores and results. Now, instead of responding just to the straight A’s on her report card, maybe compliment them specifically on the hard work they showed throughout the year.

Huffington Post Article Ideas (with alterations)

Belinda Forbes

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

The Royal Mint is a cashless workplace.
School Concert: Our end of year concert "Carols in the Courtyard" will take place on Wednesday, 30th November in the school grounds, gates will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7:00pm. Every child will be involved and all families are invited to attend. Please see the separate note sent home last week outlining costume requirements for each child.

Concert Band Program 2017: If you would like your child to participate in our school Band Program next year, please return the registration form to school as soon as possible. Information packs are available from the office and Mrs Allan.

Anne Allan

TOUCH FOOTBALL

McAuley had two teams in the senior boys and one team in the senior girls NSW Touch Gala Day on Thursday 10th November.

A big Thank you to Mrs Dean and her Year 11 girls from James Sheahan for coaching the girls.

It was a great day and we all had a lot of fun. The touch skills were fantastic and all McAuley teams played with great sportsmanship and spirit.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for supporting the teams.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Prue McAtamney, Heath McAtamney, Stella Madigan, Gus Bohringer, Austin Dews, Andrea Edwin and Roxy Macdouall.

TUCKSHOP

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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
**Mini Vinnies Grand Christmas Book Sale**

**When:** Thursday 8th December, Week 9  
(please note the change of date)

**Where:** At Kenna Hall

**Time:** All of lunch

**Price:** $1.00 for each book and 50c for gift wrapping.

Please send any donations of quality, second hand children’s books or Christmas wrapping paper to 4T before this date.

**All money raised will be donated to the Cancer Council.**