Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School
Orange
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Ph: 02 6361 3344

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Included in this newsletter is a wonderful and inspiring article written by Jack Derwin, a former student of this school (and son of Mrs Sue Derwin). The article tells of the work of Nick Abraham, himself a product of Orange Catholic schools, and the wonderful work he is doing in helping reconstruct buildings in Nepal after last year’s earthquake. I commend the article to you for a variety of reasons. Firstly to get a window into how Nepal is making very slow progress in rebuilding the infrastructure of its towns and villages. A third world country rebuilding itself will always be a challenge. A country in which one third of the population live below the poverty line.

For any parents who worry that all primary school children end up being the teenagers and young adults that are often portrayed in undesirable places with undesirable consequences on Sunday morning news bulletins, this article will change your thinking and consolidate (restore if needed) your faith in teenagers and young adults. The teenagers and young adults that I have encountered are engaging in the first instance, incredibly concerned about the welfare of those around them and indeed have a global vision of how they can best serve their fellow man or woman. But sometimes good news is no news. I think that anyone who spends a week at Catherine McAuley both in and outside the classroom would see where the seeds of such attitude are developed. I would add that the message springs greatest from the family environment. The Nick Abrahams and Jack Derwins of tomorrow are walking our corridors.

Michael Croke

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: St Mary’s Church 6:00pm
Sunday: St Joseph’s Church 8:00am
St Mary’s Church 9:30am
St Joseph’s Church 6:00pm
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Parent Teacher Information Night & Welcome BBQ: Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Parent Information Nights and welcome BBQ in recent weeks. The purpose of these events is to welcome families to McAuley and inform parents of what is happening in the school. It is particularly important this year with so many changes to classroom routines, playground areas as well as morning and afternoon routines. Next year we will look at Year 2 – Year 6 parents having the opportunity to visit the classrooms prior to the talk in Kenna Hall.

Parent Teacher Interviews: Please note that parent teacher interviews will be held from Monday 7th March – Friday 11th March (Week 7). Details will be sent home on how to book your interview online. This information on how to book your parent teacher interview will be placed on our website and on our Facebook page as well.

Southern Region Swimming Carnival: Notes will be sent home this week for children who will represent McAuley at the Southern Region Swimming Carnival on Thursday 25th February - Orange Aquatic Centre.

Whole School Assembly 6P to present Work: Friday 26th February 12:15pm in Kenna Hall. All welcome.


McAuley Athletics Carnival K – 6: Tuesday 22nd March - James Sheahan Catholic High School.

James Sheahan Catholic High School Year 7 - 2017 Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 16th March 7:00pm in Mercy Hall (The James Sheahan Orientation process has changed this year. The Year 6 children will not visit James Sheahan until Thursday 10th November and there will be another information Evening on this night).

No Hat Stay in the Shade: Children must wear a school hat during play and sport in Term 1. If a child does not have a hat they must stay in the designated shaded area during play.

Uniform Policy:
A reminder that we have a “shirts out” policy for boys when wearing their summer uniform. However the expectation is that shirts are tucked in with the winter uniform. A reminder that sport socks must be above the ankle. The “Hair below the shoulders must be tied back off their face” does apply to boys and girls. Thank you for your support with this matter.
Children are expected to be attired in the correct school uniform each day of the school year and to present themselves in line with school dress policy, which stipulates:
• Extremes of hairstyle are not permitted, these include coloured hair, patterns and haircuts or undercut less than a ‘two’ or rats tails. Hair below the shoulders must be tied back off their face
• no bracelets, bangles, necklaces or anklets - a religious medal on a fine chain may be worn
• one small ring only
• no nail polish
• one set of earrings only sleepers or studs ; boys: one single sleeper or stud
• T-shirts under short sleeved shirts are not permitted

Peer Support Training: The Year 6 children will take part in Peer Support Training Monday 4th April at Lake Burrendong and Tuesday 5th April in Kenna Hall. This training allows them to lead a small group of children from K – 5 in order to run the Peer Support Program in our school. We thank the Year 6 teachers and children for their time and effort to ensure the children in our school benefit from this valuable program.

Protected Learning Time at Catherine McAuley: As part of our commitment to becoming a Professional Learning Community (PLC) the staff have committed to Protected Literacy & Numeracy Learning Time. Which means there will be no interruptions to learning time between 9:00am and 11:00am Monday to Thursday. “Protected” means no interruption - No messages / phone calls / PA announcements unless it is an emergency. There is minimal teacher release during this time. There will also be a focus on Reading from 11:20am – 12:00pm in all classes across the school on Monday to Thursday as well. We do encourage parents to make appointments for their children outside these times if possible.
To implement this we have made the following changes
- Change to bells and school routines:
  • A warning bell will go at 8.55am and children will begin to move in to class and the Kindergarten & Year 1 children move to their lines
  • 9.00am – 11.00am – first session
  • 11.00am – 11.20am – recess
  • 11.20am – 1.20pm – middle session
  • 1.20pm – 2.10pm – lunch
  • 2.10pm – 3.10pm – afternoon session
  • Fruito could be in the middle session
  • Daily PE could move to second session
- There will be no more Monday Assembly. Friday assembly will be (roughly) every two weeks (see term calendar for dates) a **class will be responsible for showing work** (not a grade). Assemblies will include a prayer, class showing work, awards, messages from teachers, Hymn practice for Masses (liturgies), National Anthem etc. Assemblies will be Friday from 12:15pm in Kenna Hall. Parents are welcome.

- Each grade from Year 1 – Year 6 will have a Student Assistant for three days a week during the protected learning and Reading time.

As well as our wonderful new Learning Spaces, commitment to Learning and now protected Literacy & Numeracy time we are focused on working collaboratively to ensure all children reach their potential.

Learning for all...EXPECT, INSPIRE, ENGAGE.

**Steve Maguire**

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**FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

**Lent:** Our Lenten journey leading to Easter gives us the opportunity to take stock of our relationship with Christ. We see Him in all his humanness as He fights temptation, hunger and other human frailties. As we travel with Jesus during these 40 days, we too are asked to leave the security of our spiritual comfort zone. Perhaps a good place to start is prayer. Spending even just a short amount of time in regular prayer allows Jesus to touch us and guide us. This year, may our Lenten Journey truly bring us to our own renewed relationship with our Saviour.

**Project Compassion:** Teachers have begun work in their classrooms on Project Compassion for this year, and most children will have brought home their boxes. Project Compassion 2016 focuses on education. Pope Francis sees education as an act of hope. It empowers people and allows them to transform their futures and create lasting change. Over the next few weeks, the children will be learning how even our small contributions can help to change the lives of these extremely disadvantaged people significantly. More information is available from the Caritas Australia website [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au). Please take the time to talk to your children about how we can help those who are so vulnerable.

**Jubilee Year of Mercy:** Pope Francis, in declaring this year to be one of Mercy, asks us to reflect upon what mercy means to each of us. Jesus reveals God’s over-abundance of love for all of us, but importantly, not only does God love us, but also, does not condemned us for our wrongdoings. It is now time for each of us to show this same mercy towards others. This is a time when we can be the face of God, and “be merciful as the Father is merciful to us.”

**School Liturgies and Masses:** Our next School Mass will be hosted by Year 5, when they celebrate their Grade Mass on Wednesday 2nd March at 12:30pm in St Joseph’s Church. All parents, families and members of our school community are very welcome to join Year 5 for this Mass. The following week, we will celebrate Catholic Schools’ Week. As part of our activities, we will celebrate Mass on Thursday 10th March at 12:15pm

Wishing you a great week,

God Bless,

Robyn Petty
ICT at Catherine McAuley

At Catherine McAuley School we recognise the need for all students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies now and into their future. To support this we will be undertaking “Cybersafety” lessons in the early part of 2016. These sessions will explicitly teach students about safe and responsible online behaviours and raise students’ awareness of issues such as online privacy and intellectual property including copyright.

As you would be aware, all students in Years 3 to 6 are provided with a gmail account that allows them access to email and google drive. This is for school use only. To access these accounts, students are provided with a username and password. I urge parents to discuss the use of this worthwhile educational tool with their children. Students have been encouraged to share their account details with parents. This provides parents with the opportunity to ensure that children are using the tool safely and also allows parents to view the work that is being done at school.

New Technological Devices

As more and more learning experiences involve the use of technology, it is important for our school to continually update our bank of ICT devices. Recently we have seen the rollout of new Chromebooks in Years 3-5 and new Macbook Airs in Year 6. McAuley school is now in the fortunate position where we can share a class set of devices in all grades. It is important for students to learn to use a number of different devices and platforms when learning about and using ICT. This is why our planning for now and into the future involves the use of iPads, Chromebooks and Macbook Airs.

Notes to Explain Absences

As you would be aware, the manner in which teachers record the class roll has changed from a paper version to an online version. While this system is efficient it is difficult for teachers to easily look at past unexplained absences and then send out reminder notes. As a result of this, we ask that parents are very diligent in providing a note when their child has been absent. Notes must be provided within 14 days of the absence and should include the child’s name, the date of the absence, the nature of the leave and a parental signature. Unexplained absences must be recorded on student’s reports.

Sabbatical

It has become a tradition at Catherine McAuley School that Week 5 is a rest week or sabbatical week. This means that students will not be given homework next week. Some classes will continue with a daily reader and sight words, however, written homework will not be sent home. Enjoy the break!!!

Clare Miller

PLC - “Professional Learning Communities”

PLC Crossword

DOWN
1. This is used to inform the learning in our classrooms

ACROSS
2. Teachers meeting together to discuss learning
3. A shift of focus from teaching to ………

COLLABORATING DATA LEARNING
ADMINISTRATION

School Fees Accounts

Please note when paying school fees by BPAY, you must be sure to use the BPAY biller code and your reference number from the invoice that has been sent home. The school biller code and reference for this year will differ from that in previous years. Thank you for your understanding.

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have taught us to be merciful like our heavenly Father.
You are the visible face of the invisible Father, who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
Let the Church be your visible face in the world, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
Amen.

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

Monday is the only day of the week with a single-word anagram (‘dynamo’).

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Sage Fabar -Robey, Makayla Milne, Peta Morrison, Sienna Murray, Fergus Johnson, Arabella Gibson, Jayde Lewis, Annabel Dunn, Thomas Horan, Benjamin Mathews, Ethan Baiju, Bridie Corby, Sean Dwyer, Harry Grinter and Natalie Gavin.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 22nd February to Friday 26th February 2016

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>9:30am—11:30am</th>
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<td>R Mulhall / S Vaughan</td>
<td>M Vaughan / L Johnson, / N Weston A Edwards / S Martyr*</td>
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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942 * 12:45 - 1:45pm
Online registrations for the 2016 Netball Winter Competition will open on Monday 15/2 at 3pm, links and registration information will be posted to our Facebook page and Website.

Web: http://cymsnc.nsw.netball.com.au

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CYMS-Netball-Club-Inc-196178600392795/

Email: cymsnetball@y7mail.com

Invitation from the Sisters of St Joseph

Saturday 19th March 2016 is the Feast of St Joseph. On this day the Sisters of St Joseph celebrate 150 years since their foundation in Penola South Australia in 1866 as a result of the dream of Mary MacKillop and Fr Tenison Woods. The Sisters invite you to join with them in giving thanks to God for the countless blessings that have come to Australia and beyond as a result of the ministry of the Sisters in small country places and larger cities.

Mass will be celebrated in a number of centres throughout NSW on this Feast of St Joseph. Priests and Religious, Associates, family, friends, ex-students and current students of the Sisters are invited to join the Sisters in the celebration of Mass followed by refreshments.

Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick’s Church, Wellington, (58 Warne St) at 11.00 am.

For purposes of catering and printing please send your reply before 6th March to Sr Julie Simpson

Phone: 4677 1477 or 0418 674 452 and leave a message

Email: julie.simpson@sosj.org.au.

Post: Sr Julie Simpson, PO Box 13, Picton NSW 2571

Orange Aboriginal Medical Service:

Address: 27-31 Percy Griffith Way, Orange, and Unit 4 & 5 Gateway Crescent, Orange.

Phone - 63939000

Services:
- General Practitioner – 5 days a week
- Eye Clinic – 1 day a week
- Dentist – 5 days a week
- Speech and Hearing Assessments referred by the GP
- Bulk-billing.

This service is available to Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students and adults.
DOING SOMETHING about a NEED

New Zealanders felt the generosity, drive and organisation of the student “army” that turned up in Christchurch after the earthquakes. Jack Derwin tells of Nick Abraham and other volunteers who are helping now to rebuild in Nepal after the earthquake last year.

The earthquake that struck Nepal on 25th April 2015 devastated the country, killing almost 9,000 people and leaving some two million Nepalese homeless. The nation went into mourning as it sifted through the rubble – the remains of its towns and villages.

On the ground the task of rebuilding all that was destroyed and damaged remains a monumental task. In the weeks and months following, the recovery effort began to take shape, with substantial humanitarian aid and foreign volunteers rushing to Nepal’s side.

One person makes a difference
Among those volunteers was Nick Abraham, a 21-year-old carpenter who was working in Darwin, Australia. He was so moved by the sheer enormity and desperation of the country, he quit his job and moved to Nepal to help the rebuilding process.

“Originally I came over to work with an organisation that I had heard was rebuilding a local village,” recalls Nick.

What he found, however, was a flailing unregistered project unable to support itself and many volunteers being forced to leave due to their own financial circumstances. In essence, he found himself in a small village completely alone.

“My first thought was, what the hell is this?” recounts Nick, faced with no support and surrounded by such tragedy.

“I found that most of the other volunteers from the village had gone their separate ways. A few were still keen to work together.”

Getting started
Despite lacking a formal organisation, those remaining had the real desire to lend a hand in helping the local Nepalese rebuild. Rather than abandon the project entirely, Nick collaborated with those left in the village. They registered themselves as an official organisation and commenced the rebuilding process properly. The group became fittingly named, From The Ground Up.

Armed with Nick’s tools and $10,000 he had helped raise in Darwin, the group began work in the small village of Ghumarichowk, an hour northeast of Kathmandu.

As few others were able to commit full-time, Nick commenced the construction work largely alone. Nepalese architects, already working full-time in Kathmandu, supplied him with designs they completed on their days off. Nick worked himself to physical exhaustion as he faced obstacle after obstacle in the destruction.

“It’s a struggle most days,” admits Nick. “I used to wake up at five every morning to fetch water and get food for the crew in a nearby village and then walk back up the hills that surround the village. I would work all day then get back home and help with preparing dinner, do the dishes then go to bed. I did this every day for three months. It all started to take its toll.”

On top of this, he had to work with locals with whom he couldn’t
communicate, a building standard far different from what he was used to, an imperial measurement system, and difficult access to the village surrounded by hills. With the price of petrol well over $8 NZ per litre, he would often walk building materials up the four hills to the building site.

Every helper counts
Meanwhile word began to spread about the work he was doing and other foreigners began trickling in to give him a hand.

"Literally, I'd meet people in bars and start chatting about the work I was doing. After a few beers people would ask: 'When can I start?'"

These first volunteers were soon joined by others from around the world. Nick credited this largely to a friend's help.

"Jade, a girl I had met in Darwin, came over to help me and then she began recruiting people. She was a marketing and promotion genius. Within three weeks we had 13 people up here."

Nick recalls: "We've had Australians, New Zealanders, as well as French and Brazilians and British, to name but a few."

Joe Webbe, explained why he decided to volunteer: "Back in my schooling days (St Ignatius College, Riverview, Sydney) I was in MacKillop House...we used to come last in all the athletics and swimming carnivals etc. so it wasn't always fun. But the patron of my House, good old Mary MacKillop, had a saying that I think applies well to all aspects of life, whether you're religious or not: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.'"

In total, the project has received some 21 volunteers during Nick's tenure in the village. But while the help is much needed it is not without its challenges. A short-term volunteer usually stays only a few weeks. At present there is only one other full-time volunteer.

While they estimate that the school they wish to build would take approximately eight weeks to erect with a full-time seven-person team, this goal is wishful thinking when From the Ground Up struggles to have more than two volunteers at a time.

Building to resist earthquakes
The group's ultimate aim is to become a sustainable project capable of producing earthquake-resistant structures. This style of construction sets apart From The Ground Up's work from other local efforts. Nick and others had surveyed the rebuilding in other parts of Nepal and were deflated to see that structures were being rebuilt in the same way as those that had been felled by the earthquake.

"They don't have the equipment to do the building processes properly and they don't have the money to afford the tools to do the job. For a seismic region like Nepal they need to do a high-quality job to withstand a future earthquake. There can be no shortcuts taken and walking around—that's all I see happening."

From The Ground Up's objective is even more important. Not only must schools and houses be re-erected but they must be done in a sustainable way.

"I have come to learn so much from the Nepalese and they have come to learn so much from me. Their knowledge of the natural material and my knowledge of the construction process and workmanship combined, make for very strong, earthquake-resistant buildings."

Working together
The task ahead of Nick and the organisation is enormous. Of the 420 structures in Ghumarichowk, the earthquake damaged 80 per cent. Contrast this with the fact that four in five Nepalese are on a minimum wage equivalent to $99 NZ. It is apparent that it would take them many years to afford to rebuild. It's obvious then that the From The Ground Up project has to be more than simply rebuilding one structure at a time.

"We want to promote a grassroots movement where we teach the local people how to build extremely earthquake-resistant housing or buildings out of the very material that surrounds them," Nick explains. "The main plan is to do this while we're rebuilding schools in remote areas in a sustainable and affordable way."

The structures they have designed use earthbags and rammed earth, traditional Nepalese methods tweaked to resist future tremors.

"I have come to learn so much from the Nepalese and they have come to learn so much from me. Their knowledge of the natural material and my knowledge of the construction process and workmanship combined, make for very strong, earthquake-resistant buildings."

Nick and the other volunteers' passion and skills are making a difference in the lives of earthquake-traumatised Nepal. From the Ground Up is financed by donations to their gofundme website. All the money goes towards rebuilding Nepal from the ground up.

Jack Derwin is a student, writer and journalist living in Mexico. Long as his finances allow, he has no interest in changing any of the aforementioned.