This week we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption with the children and staff of St Mary’s School and many Parishioners at St Mary’s Church. It was a beautiful Mass celebrated by Fr Garry McKeown and Fr Ephrem. The children were extremely well behaved and participated reverently and enthusiastically.

There was a huge congregation on hand to celebrate this important feast day. I am sure that the many parishioners some of whom may have lost faith in the importance placed on Religion in our youth would have been impressed with the reverence and attitude of the children. They would also have enjoyed the opportunity to worship and pray with so many young people.

So why did both schools go to so much trouble to take part in this special Liturgical Celebration?

The answer is simple, because we are Catholic.

Being a Catholic is not as simple as attending Mass or attending a Catholic School. Being Catholic calls us to live our life following the example of Jesus. To reach out to those in need …. to be there for others ….. to have empathy for people less fortunate than ourselves …. to be good people.

Our Catholicity was evident on the day …. in the reverence and participation in the Liturgy … in the hospitality shown to us by the St Mary’s staff and children …. in the extra time and effort it took for the McAuley staff and students to be there to take part.

However as I reflected on the experience the true example of Jesus for me on the day was watching the staff and students come together after Mass to share lunch …. play together ….. have a chat and enjoy each others company.

It was a special experience summed up by Harry Grinter in KM “This is a fantastic day.”

Steve Maguire

God - A Dear Friend
We may address God
As we would a dear friend
To whom we owed a great deal.
Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL


Whole School Assembly: 4G will present their work at the next Whole School Assembly this Friday 26th August commencing at 12:15pm in Kenna Hall. All welcome!

Diocesan Athletics Carnival: We wish the children from McAuley who have been selected to represent the Southern Region at the Bathurst Diocesan Catholic Carnival at Barden Park, North Dubbo tomorrow Thursday 18th August the best of luck. We look forward to hearing of their fantastic achievements next week. Thank you to the parents who transported the children to and from the carnival and supported them.

ICAS Tests: The children from Year 3 to Year 6 who nominated for the ICAS tests sat the Mathematics Test yesterday Tuesday 16th August. We will send home results when they are posted to us. Well done!

Chess: A big thank you to Mrs Mulligan, Mr Croke and the many parents who gave our chess teams the opportunity to compete in the school’s chess competition. The competition was tough but the children had a great time and were great ambassadors for our school.

Netball Schools Cup: Congratulations to our Year 6 netball girls and their coach Mrs Sue Dean. Thank you to the parents who transported and supported the girls in the finals last week. The girls finished in third place which is a fantastic effort. Please read the full report in this newsletter. The team will now travel to Penrith and compete in the schools competition on Tuesday 13th September.

Kindergarten Dance at the Eisteddfod: WOW! I was fortunate enough to watch the KD dancers at the K-2 Dance Eisteddfod last Friday. They were fantastic. The skill level was great and the smiles and enjoyment was there for everyone to see. As a result of their fantastic dance moves they were presented with an encouragement award. Thank you to Mrs Snowden and Mrs Derwin for giving the children the opportunity to perform.

NAPLAN: Today the Year 3 & Year 5 children will bring home their NAPLAN results. It is very important to acknowledge that this is one test on one day that informs us of the children’s ability in basic skills in various areas. Please stop and spend time with your child and celebrate the success they have had and talk about areas they can improve on. The NAPLAN is very useful for teachers to work out which areas require more attention and to celebrate the success of a grade in other areas. It is useful in setting the future direction of learning for a grade or the school. It also provides us with information on how to help students grow and reach the next band.

Steve Maguire
The Assumption: On Monday we celebrated the Feast of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Mary is held up to the Church as a wonderful role model for all. Her faith was incredibly strong and she was always willing to listen to God and do as He asked. When she died, she was rewarded by being taken to heaven body and soul.

The Assumption: We had a lovely visit with St Mary’s school last Monday for the Feast of Mary's Assumption into heaven. The children and teachers, thoroughly enjoyed visiting St Mary’s School and joining with them for this very special Feast Day. A huge thank you to all at St Mary’s for their wonderful warm welcome. Getting all our children there and back with lunchboxes, jumpers, etc intact took a lot of work, and I would like to thank all our teachers who took on this mammoth task with such ease. We look forward to celebrating again with St Mary’s again next year.

Confirmation: A reminder that enrolment Forms for the Sacrament of Confirmation were due last week. If you have not completed the enrolment forms and returned them to the Parish Office already, please do as soon as possible. Confirmation will take place on the weekend of 10th and 11th September. Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they continue their preparation for this wonderful Sacrament.

Fathers’ Day Liturgy: Our next Whole School Liturgy will be to celebrate Fathers’ Day on Friday 2nd September at 12:15pm. We would love to invite all dads, granddads, uncles, and special men in our children’s lives, as well as families to join us for this lovely liturgy. As usual, we will be organising a powerpoint with photos of kids and their dads and /or families. Could I ask you to start sending in these photos to me through email, USB or hard copy, and I will begin the lengthy process of organising this presentation. I am happy to send hard copy photos and USB’s home again the same day. My email address is: r.petty@bth.catholic.edu.au

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,

Robyn Petty

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

When Usain Bolt ran the 100m at the 2012 Olympics, his feet only touched the ground for two seconds.
Mathletics

All students at Catherine McAuley School have access to Mathletics. Mathletics is the world’s leading online numeracy resource, helping students to love learning and achieve greater results through engaging content that perfectly matches their school curriculum. On Wednesday 17th August, Camille Tavares, Brooke Church and Catherine Sutton travelled to Bathurst to attend an inservice aimed at improving teacher use of this valuable resource. If you are having difficulty logging in to Mathletics, please contact staff in the front office for assistance.

Eisteddfod

Last Friday KD performed a dance at the Orange Eisteddfod called "A Friend Like Me"
They were amazing and had a great time up on stage. A big congratulations to all the little dancers they worked so hard and showed the community how talented we are at Catherine McAuley.

Karen Snowden and Sue Derwin

Attendance At School

The management of attendance at school is a very important and often laborious task. School personnel, the CEO, the police and parents have a significant role to play in ensuring that each child’s attendance at school is satisfactory.

Schools are accountable for ensuring satisfactory attendance and this includes ensuring that absence notes are received in a timely manner. (Within seven days of the absence). It also involves ensuring children are at school before the start of lessons.

At Catherine McAuley School we have set aside the morning session as “protected learning time”. This means an uninterrupted focus is placed on the student’s learning of Numeracy and Literacy. Unfortunately there is still a large number of children arriving late to school on a regular basis. In addition to the obvious interruption to learning at this very important time, it also means added clerical time for office staff and teachers as each late arrival must be individually entered into the digital attendance register.

Attendance At School - Parents are responsible for:

1. Enrolling their children of compulsory school age in a government or registered non-government school or registering them with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for home schooling;

2. Ensuring that their children attend school every day the school is open for their instruction;

3. Explaining the absences of their children from school promptly with a written note, or email to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence;

4. Working in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school, including communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child's attendance or engagement with school.

Clare Miller

SCHOOL FEES

The 3rd Instalment of School Fees was due last Friday 12th August. If you do not have a payment plan in place, please ensure your school fees account is settled by this Friday 26th August. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your school fees, please contact Annalisa Covelli at the school office as soon as possible.
**MUSIC & DRAMA**

**IT'S PLAYTIME:** Year 4 have been rehearsing their class play, "Robbing Hood of Sherbet Forest" during the term and are now looking forward to performing for their school friends and families. The plays will be performed in Kenna Hall and will take approximately 20 minutes. All costumes will be supplied but children have been asked to make a simple wooden sword. Everyone welcome!

4T Monday 22nd August 1:00pm  
4B Thursday 25th August 1:00pm  
4G Wednesday 31st August 1:00pm

**BAND PERFORMANCES:**
Both school bands will be performing in the coming weeks and we'd love parents and friends to come and enjoy the music.

**TRAINING BAND:** Our next school assembly on Friday 26th August will be the Training Band's first public performance this year. In just a few months, Mr Love has guided the new recruits from barely being able to make a sound to now playing recognisable tunes! Come and enjoy on Friday at 12:20pm.

**CONCERT BAND:** The Concert Band will be performing at the Orange Eisteddfod on Friday 2nd September at the Orange Function Centre. A separate note will be sent home this week with all the details. Please return the permission note promptly.

Anne Allan

**LIBRARY**

Don't forget to come to school next **Wednesday, 24th August**, dressed as a character from a book or a character from Australia's history. We are going to have a great day together spending time with giants and witches, fairies and wizards, and so much more.

The students will be testing their literature knowledge with some rounds of trivia questions in their Peer Support Groups as well as hearing the announcement of the winning books from the Book Week shortlist. The children have been listening to the shortlisted books and have made their own predictions! So far "Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas" by Aaron Blabey is a sure winner according to the students of Catherine McAuley School. Will they be right? We will know soon.

Year 6 have been creating a bookmark each and the winning one will be printed and each child at the school will receive a copy. What a great honour for the winning artist!

Thank you to all the families out there helping their children create a costume. I know it is an effort at times but the children really appreciate it and they have a wonderful day. The teachers are also thinking of some great dress-up ideas for themselves to wear! Looking forward to a great day.

Catherine Bishenden

**BIRTHDAYS**

**Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week:** Kai Plante, Oscar Mullins, Jacob Wooding, Isla Curtis, Hayley Hunter and Ava Martyr.

**TUCKSHOP**

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<td>F Dunn/ K D’Ombrain</td>
<td>J.Griffiths/ S Mendel/ R Wasow/ R Fraser</td>
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* B Spurr 12:45 - 1.45pm

Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942
After progressing through phase one of the netball schools cup in Bathurst undefeated, the Catherine McAuley netballers qualified for the regional finals held in Orange on Wednesday 10th August.

We were placed in a pool with three other schools who had also won the first phase in their area. They were from Nyngan, West Wyalong and Coonamble. After three hard fought pool matches, we were placed first in our pool.

We then came up against St Pius, Dubbo in the semi final. Although the McAuley girls gave 100%, the Dubbo team were too good on the day - meaning that our next game would be the play off for third place.

In our final game, the McAuley girls displayed some outstanding netball skills and were comfortable winners - achieving a very credible 3rd place.

Thank you to all the parents who came to support the girls - we really appreciated you being there and cheering us on. A big thank you also to Millie Lenehan for doing a fantastic job of umpiring for us on the day.

Congratulations to the lovely talented Year 6 girls who were excellent representatives of our school. They have been giving up their lunchtime every Monday for two terms to train and it was clear to see that they have all developed their skills and were very successfully completing a number of set moves within their play. Best of all, the team were so supportive of each other and understood the importance of positive talk on court and off.

The next step for the school netball team will be taking on the city teams when we travel to Penrith to compete in the Catholic Primary Schools carnival in September.  

Sue Dean (Coach)