“CAROLS IN THE COURTYARD”

Wednesday 30th November

Gates open at 6:30pm
Concert will begin at 7:00pm
Children need to arrive at 6:40pm
Band members need to arrive by 6:30pm

Entry: Please make a gold coin donation which will go to our local St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal and Mercy Missions.

Bring along your chairs or picnic rug and enjoy an evening of entertainment with your children.

Please note: this is an alcohol free event!
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: Help your teachers and friends

This week’s rule comes from SERVICE: Help others in our school and the world.

At this time of year this rule is even more important. Life becomes very busy at the end of the school year and as we prepare for Christmas. It is important that we do help our teachers, friends and parents. It is not until we get older that we really appreciate everything that our teachers and parents do for us. We should always help each other whenever we can.

Behaviour Management Trial: The new behavior management trial is working well. Children are receiving an immediate consequence for unacceptable behavior. 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. Classes are being finalised at the end of this week ready to inform parents of the class their child will be in for 2017.

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. 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 rules in any way please put your request in writing and send it to your child’s class teacher.

Summer sports Trials: McAuley was represented by 16 Year 5 children in the Summer Sports Trials in Dubbo yesterday. They all represented our school proudly and had a lot of fun. Congratulations to Molly Dean, Hope Gibson, Jack Dean, Cruz Jordan (touch), Lucy Cook (basketball) and Will Rodwell (cricket) who were selected in Diocesan Teams. They will represent the Diocese at Polding Trials early next year.

Year 6 Mass & Farewell Tuesday 13th December: A reminder to the Year 6 Parents to send in the $25 to help with costs of the evening. A committee of Year 6 parents has been formed to organise the celebration following the Mass. If you indicated that you can help you will be contacted soon. A big thank you to the Year 5 parents who have offered to help serve and clean up on the night, a note will be sent home closer to the date to inform you of the details.

Christmas Cheer: We are all getting very excited with Christmas fast approaching. Please do not send candy canes to school as they are often eaten at the wrong time and can lead to arguments in class or on the playground. They can be special treats to share at home.

Steve Maguire
FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

O Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, come and dwell with us.
Desire of all nations;
Gift to every generation,

**The Season of Advent:** This weekend we begin the Church’s Season of Advent for Year A. This also marks the official end to the “Year of Mercy” which we have been celebrating since the beginning of Advent 2015. Advent is a special time of reflection. It is the final lead up to Christmas, and is a time to look at how we are travelling in our own relationship with God. The Advent Wreath with its four candles symbolise this special time. There are three purple candles and one rose coloured candle. The purple candles represent a time of reflection and acknowledgment of our need for God’s mercy, while the rose candle symbolises the hope of the Christ-child who’s birth will bring salvation. This Sunday we light the first purple candle and reflect on Matthew’s Gospel, which reminds us to “stay awake” as “the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:44)

**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 is on the back of this newsletter. We are now collecting Hamper items, 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! The list is also on the website.

**November – the Month of the Holy Souls:** As this is the last week of November, could I ask you continue to pray for the Holy Souls. The Church asks us to remember and pray for all those we love and are no longer with us. In turn, these Holy souls are able to pray for us. The ‘Book of Remembrance’ is in each of the Parish Churches and is taken up in the Offertory Procession at each Mass during November, and all those recorded in the book are prayed for.

**Liturgies and Masses:** Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass today. It was lovely to have so many families with us. Our last Mass for the year, our **End of Year Mass** will take place on, **Wednesday, 14th December at 12noon**. 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 continued presence with us.

**Year 6 Farewell Mass:** Our Year 6 Farewell Mass this year will be on Tuesday, 13th December at 6:00pm. This very special Mass will be followed by a celebration in Kenna Hall for our Year 6 students.

**Liturgical Music Workshop:** As mentioned in previous newsletters, next 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 a small number of our Year 5 & Year 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 went out with those in Year 5 & Year 6 interested in attending this workshop. If your child did not get a permission note and is interested in attending, please see me. 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.

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,

Robyn Petty
LIFE EDUCATION

Over the past two weeks each class at Catherine McAuley have had the opportunity to visit the Life Education Van. Life Education has been empowering children and young people to make safer and healthier choices through education for more than 35 years. The underlying belief is that each child should be living to their full potential. To meet this vision programs are designed so that they are relevant to Australian children and young people every day, as well as their families and communities. Life education is the largest non-government provider of drug and health education, operating in all States and Territories.

More information can be found their website: lifeeducation.org.au

CHRISTMAS WISHES

As we draw closer to the end of the year and Christmas celebrations, many children like to give Christmas cards to their friends and teachers which is a lovely gesture. We do discourage the sharing of candy canes and other sweet treats. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Clare Miller

Weekend Mass times

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

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

In the first BBC radio news report, the news was read twice, once quickly and once slowly. Listeners were asked which they preferred.
This term our student assistants have worked extremely hard to assess each of our students using the Dibels reading measure. This measure assesses how accurate and fluent students are with their reading.

This year we have implemented a number of measures to improve the proficiency of our students with their reading. These have included:

- The introduction of protected learning time.
- The introduction of a dedicated reading time school wide from 11:30-12:00pm.
- The re-establishment of our connection with Dr Sarah McDonagh from CSU who has delivered a number of sessions with staff around reading fluency and phonics.

We are very pleased to announce that the dedication of our teachers and the diligence of our students has resulted in a 12% increase in the reading proficiency levels of our students.

We would like to thank all families who take the time to listen to their children read and who encourage reading in their homes. We ask that over the busy Christmas period and throughout the school holidays that you continue to encourage reading in your homes and take the time to hear your child read aloud on a regular basis.

Camille Tavares and Anne Mulligan

Our teachers and student assistants getting excited about Dibels reading results!!
Guitar

If you would like your child to take part in the school Guitar program next year, please collect a registration form from the office. Places will be limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment. Current students need not reapply. Only available to children from Year 3 to Year 6.

School Concert

"Carols in the Courtyard" Wednesday 30th November, 7:00pm. Gates open 6:30pm. Please read the separate note outlining all the details of the evening, that was sent home last week. We look forward to a wonderful family evening.

Anne Allan

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Emily Crain, Alexandra Milne, Saige King, Ethan Dillon, Ellie Kostitch, Joseph Murphy, Cooper Baird, Claire Gibson, Thomas Tancred and Annalise Wright.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 28th November to Friday 2nd December 2016

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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942