FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I welcome everyone back to Term 2, a term that will be one of consolidation for staff and students alike. I wish to point out that we have pupil free days on the Friday of Weeks 7 and 9. We endeavour to keep pupil free days to a minimum and as parent friendly as possible and also notify parents as soon as possible because we are very aware that some parents need to arrange workshifts well in advance.

On other matters I thank and congratulate all of those students and teachers who were part of Monday's ANZAC march. It was a wonderful sight to see all the schools of Orange involved in the march to pay a 2016 tribute to those who fought in wars decades ago. For children and parents to give up some of their holiday time is to be commended.

Michael Croke
Speech given by Director of Schools Jenny Allen at Opening of School Extensions Friday April 1st 2016

As indicated in the welcome that has been extended to us at the start of our ceremony, all the key partners in this Catholic educational community are gathered here today.

That in itself gives us cause for celebration as we pause to acknowledge the role that so many people play in the ongoing development of all aspects of this school community, including its physical attributes.

Students, when I joined you for your beautiful celebration of the Eucharist just a few weeks ago in Catholic Schools Week, you demonstrated through the joy of your singing, movement and prayer, the importance of always giving thanks to God for the many blessings we experience in our lives and particularly within our school community.

Today provides another chance for you and all of the adults gathered, to give thanks to God for all of the people who make this school such a great place of faith, learning and friendship.

Firstly, the presence of Mr Andrew Gee reminds us how appreciative we should be to live in a country such as ours where both the state and federal governments support parental choice in education through the provision of funding across both the government and non-government sectors of schooling.

In a gloriously diverse multicultural, multi faith society such as Australia, government funding for education which supports and sustains this aspect of our society is critical, in a world which desperately needs to be reminded of the gospel imperative of tolerance, inclusion and respect.

I experienced a joyous moment along these lines during the Easter weekend whilst sitting on a swing in a park with my 3 year old grandson in a suburb in Melbourne. He spontaneously brought to my attention the number of children whom he could tell were Sikh, by their dress. The delight in his voice regarding the diversity amongst the children he could see, was a lovely reminder of the importance of educating for cultural awareness.

The presence of the Sisters of Mercy whose lives personify the mercy charism, is a special gift to this school community. I know that through the leadership of Michael Croke, all dimensions of the Mercy ethos are deeply treasured and acknowledged in a contemporary manner.

One of the most significant outcomes of the refurbishment project has been the opportunity it has provided for the school community to consider how the story of Catherine McAuley and the sisters of Mercy could be visually portrayed. The finished product in the administration building is stunningly beautiful in both the reverence and simplicity of its design.

The presence of Bishop Michael, Fr Garry, Fr Paul and Fr Kane reminds us, just as the reading from St Paul will today, that Jesus is the foundation of our lives and our learning. Today we give thanks to our bishop and to the clergy for helping all of us to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Following the Mass during Catholic Schools week, I chatted with a mother of two young students and she spoke in glowing terms of the quality of the education and the learning environment being experienced by her children. Another significant thing to celebrate today is the dynamic partnership that has been built in this school community over so many years between families and staff.

Today as we officially bless and open these transformed learning spaces and administration, it is an opportunity to acknowledge the transformation that is also occurring within learning and teaching here at Catherine McAuley.

The staff at this school are well on the path of reculturing the school as a professional learning community with practices that reflect our diocesan model of Christ Centred learning. They are doing so with great enthusiasm and professionalism, acting on their desire to ensure that students experience optimal classroom teaching in support of high levels of learning for all students.

All staff are to be congratulated for the lead role they are taking within the diocese in this regard.

I can envisage in the not too distant future, staff from other schools visiting Catherine McAuley to observe the practices of these innovative teachers who are crafting their learning in response to the needs of each student. Staff here are certainly working towards achieving great synergy between these revitalised classroom spaces and revitalised teaching practices.

As this school continues to thrive and flourish on the inspiration and example of Catherine McAuley, the following observation about her seems apt:

Catherine’s loving and simple trust in God was the mainspring of all her decisions and actions. From it she derived her deep peace of heart and her serenity and such daring courage to run risks in his service.

As a result of our engagement in today’s liturgy, may all of us feel inspired anew to find that daring courage to run risks in God’s service.

Winter Uniform: Term 2 is when children begin to wear their winter uniform. During the first two weeks of the term students are permitted to wear their summer uniform if the weather permits. However, students must be in full summer or winter uniform not a mismatch of the two. During Term 3 & Term 4 children must have their shirt tucked in (except for when they are on the playground) and they do not have to wear a hat while outdoors. An important reminder that extreme hair cuts and hair colouring are not permitted and all hair below the shoulders (for boys & girls) must be tied off their face.

NAPLAN: The children in Year 3 & Year 5 will sit the NAPLAN on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May. It is important to acknowledge that these assessments on Mathematics, Writing, Reading and Language Conventions test basic skills and knowledge. Teachers do not teach to the NAPLAN however they do give the children practice with past papers to ensure they are as relaxed and as comfortable as possible to achieve the best they can on the day. It is also important to acknowledge that the children are being assessed on what they have been taught from Kindergarten not just what they have been taught in the first two terms of Year 3 or Year 5.

Peer Support: Peer Support groups are being finalised and the children will meet in their groups in the coming weeks. We are aiming to begin Peer Support in Week 3 on Tuesday afternoons. Thank you to the Year 6 teachers for organising this program and to the Year 6 children for leading these sessions.

Diocesan Spelling Bee: A child from each grade in Years 3 to Year 6 will represent McAuley at the Diocesan Finals Day in Wellington on Thursday 26th May (Week 5 Term 2). Sam French Year 6 and Alan Parayil Year 5 have been nominated so far. The Year 3 & Year 4 children will be named early next term.

ICAS Tests: As in previous years, students will be able to nominate and sit the ICAS tests for Mathematics and English. Catherine McAuley will offer students the opportunity to sit the English Tuesday 2nd June and Mathematics Tuesday 16th August. A note will come home next week asking for nominations and payment for children wishing to sit these external tests. The cost will be $9.00 per test.

Cross Country: Congratulations to the children who won the school Cross Country at the end of last term. Ribbons will be given out and the children who have been invited to compete at the Diocesan Cross Country in Coolah on Tuesday 3rd May have received a note at the end of last term. This year we will travel to Coolah by private car. Thank you Mr Gough for organising the Cross Country.

Diocesan Winter Sport Trials: We wish the following children the best of luck when they represent the Bathurst Diocese in the Polding Winter Trials tomorrow in Bathurst. Jack Dean & Connor Vardanega (Under 11’s Rugby League). This is a great opportunity and I am sure the sport will be of a high standard.

Southern Region Athletics Carnival: The Southern Region Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 29th July in Canowindra. Notes will be sent home with the children who will represent Catherine McAuley at the carnival in coming weeks.

Procedure if you have any concerns or issues: A reminder to parents that if they have any concerns with their child’s progress in class or safety on the playground please contact your child’s class teacher via the school office to make an appointment to see them. Many issues can often be solved through communication and listening to both sides of the situation. The teacher will involve a member of the executive if they feel it is necessary. Please be assured all concerns from parents are investigated thoroughly and dealt with according to the school’s Pastoral Care and Discipline Policy. If the teachers are not aware of situations they cannot help your child. Discussing issues with the teacher will produce better results than discussing the issue with other parents.

Steve Maguire
Welcome back to Term 2! Once again we have a very busy term, with much to achieve. During this term our Year 3 students will prepare for and receive their First Holy Communion, and our Year 6 students will sit the Inter-Diocesan Year 6 Religious Education Exam. We will be preparing the 5:00pm Parish Mass on Sunday 29th May and of course, we have Mothers’ Day celebrations!

Project Compassion: Thank you so much to those who have so generously contributed to our Project Compassion appeal and returned their boxes. If you still have any boxes at home, could you please send them in as soon as possible. I am always amazed at how wonderfully giving our families are towards those who are most in need. Once again, a very sincere thank you for your generosity.

First Holy Communion 2016: The Parent Meeting for First Communion is on TONIGHT, Wednesday, 27th April at 7:00pm in St Mary’s Church. If you have a child in Year 3 or older and you wish them to receive this Sacrament, it is important that you attend this meeting. First Holy Communion will take place at the Parish Masses on the weekend of 4th and 5th June.

Sacramental Preparation for 2016: The Bathurst Diocese requires that Sacraments are received in a specific order. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is required before First Communion can be received, and both these Sacraments must be received before Confirmation. Each year we have children who for some reason, have not made these pre-requisite Sacraments and the school endeavours to assist them to catch up. This year the Parish has made the decision that if children wish to receive First Communion or Confirmation and have not completed the pre-requisite Sacraments, they must contact the Parish Office and make an appointment with Fr Garry. A preparation package will then be available for parents to take home and work through with their children on the Sacrament/s needed. After completing this preparation, parents then will be required to make arrangements through the Parish Office for these pre-requisite Sacraments to be administered before either First Communion or Confirmation.

Mothers’ Day Liturgy: Mothers’ Day falls at the end of Week 2 and to celebrate we will have a Mothers’ Day Liturgy Friday, 6th May at 10:30am in St Joseph’s Church. Please note change of time. As this date clashes with the Diocesan Religious Educators Conference, this year Mrs Brooke Church will be in charge of organising our celebration. A very big ‘thank you’ to Brooke for taking on this very special job! We will still be running the powerpoint, so if you have photos of mothers with or without their children that you would like included in the powerpoint, please send them in to me so we can use them. You can email me on r.petty@bth.catholic.edu.au or send them in on a thumb drive or hard copy and these will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Proposed Liturgies for Term Two: In case you didn’t get this information last term, here is our proposed Liturgy timetable for Term 2.

Week 2: Friday 6th May: Whole School Mothers’ Day Liturgy 10:30am (Please note change of time.)
Week 3: Wednesday 11th May: Year 6 Grade Mass 12:30pm
Week 5: Sunday 29th May: 5:00pm Parish Mass prepared by McAuley
Week 6: Wednesday 1st June: Year 3 Reconciliation Mass 12:15pm
Sat/Sun 4/5th June: First Communion
Week 7: Wednesday 8th June: Year 4 Grade Mass 12:30pm
Week 8: Wednesday 15th June: Whole School First Communion Thanksgiving Mass: 12:15pm
Week 9: Wednesday 22nd June: Year 2 Grade Liturgy 12:30pm

God Bless,
Robyn Petty
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Anzac Day

It was a very proud moment for the Catherine McAuley Community when we witnessed so many students from our school marching on Anzac Day. Monday saw one of our biggest contingent ever with 201 students marching behind the McAuley banner. Congratulations to all students who behaved impeccably and wore their uniform with pride. Thank you to parents who made the effort to bring their children along and for the many staff that supervised on the day.

Reminder to Wear Coats

Winter will be upon us in no time and as the Orange weather begins to deteriorate, please remember to send in a coat with your child everyday. It is very important to label all items of clothing as children take off coats and jumpers when they come into the classroom and these expensive items can easily become lost. If you are purchasing a new coat for your child, maroon or navy are the preferred colours for school coats.

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 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.

Use of Social Media by Students

It has come to the attention of staff that many students are using social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Please be mindful that these social media sites require parental permission and that the recommended age for most sites is 13+. If these sites are accessed outside of school hours then it is beyond the jurisdiction of the school, however social issues that develop as a result of the use of these sites can cause significant problems at school. If an issue does spill over into the school social setting students involved will be dealt with in accordance with the school Welfare and Discipline Policy.

It is important for our students to be responsible digital citizens. During this term all primary aged students will complete the Budd-e program (https://budd-e.cybersmart.gov.au/primary/main.php) which highlights the following important issues:

- Cyber Security: firewall, email filtering, anti-virus software, security updates.
- Malware - any type of bad software. These are a serious threat.
- Recognise that not everything that is sent to us is safe to open. Learn how to close dangerous emails or messages safely.
- Copyright
- What are the features of a strong password and why is this necessary
- What should be public and private
- Learn that we should not leave full name online

Clare Miller
INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

Children on long car journeys are more likely to grow up to be rich and successful if they sit in the middle seat.

SCHOOL CROSSING

Parents, please be mindful of students, parents and our crossing supervisor when approaching the pedestrian crossing in front of the school. There have been a number of incidents where parents are ignoring the signal from our crossing supervisor. Please wait to be given the all clear to walk across the pedestrian crossing and if you are driving, please wait to be given the signal from the crossing supervisor to drive through.

PUPIL FREE DAYS TERM 2

PUPIL FREE DAYS

FRIDAY 10TH JUNE

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week:  James Gibson, Charlie Sharp, Reese Board, Paityn Klaare, Jorja Taberner, Willow Clarke, Oliver Livingstone, Freya Bryant, Charles Sutton, Caiden Hoy and James Weston.

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 2nd May to Friday 6th May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>9.30am—11.30am</th>
<th>11.30am—2.00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>K Cain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>K Sampson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>F Dickinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>K Daniel</td>
<td>A Meade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>R Mulhall / S Vaughan</td>
<td>M Vaughan / L Johnson / N Weston / A Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S Martyr *12:45 - 1:45pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942