FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Catherine McAuley school will be presenting "Carols in the Courtyard" tonight. I know that parents will appreciate the tremendous amount of work that all teachers have done, especially Mrs Allan and Mrs Snowden, in putting together such an enormous production. As we get close to Christmas and the end of the year it is important for all of us to spend some time thinking about the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of Christ is the central theme of our Catholic and Christian faith.

The concert is indeed a metaphor for the wonderful teachers we have at Catherine McAuley. Apart from the tremendous efforts and patience they display in teaching your children and grandchildren one of the marks of the staff is the amount of extra time they put in to make the experience of school as fulfilling and as rewarding as possible. We have many teachers who arrive at school before 7 o'clock each morning. We have many who are here many hours after the children have left. Not to mention weekend work. The Grade 6 teachers who took the students on the recent Canberra excursion effectively worked 22 hours of unpaid overtime!

As the year concludes I would ask parents to consider what they think is the best way to thank their child's teacher for all their efforts this year. It is very easy to say "but that's their job" and "they are already paid" but teaching is a ministry and a vocation and a vote of thanks from parents and students is all it takes for teachers to feel all their efforts have been worthwhile and appreciated.

Michael Croke

May God preserve and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this holy season.

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:** Knock before entering a room and wait for the teacher to address you.

This week’s rule comes from LEARNING: Interruptions have a negative impact on learning in the classroom. As a school we have put things in place with protected learning time to try and limit distractions in the classroom. It is important that no one walks straight into a classroom. We must wait until the teacher asks you to enter the room at an appropriate time.

**Staffing for 2017:** The teachers grades for 2017 were printed on the front of the newsletter a couple of weeks ago. It is important to remember that the McAuley policy is not to change classes once they have been finalised. **Classes have been finalised for 2017. Parents will be informed of what class their child is in for 2017 when they receive their report for Semester 2. Reports will be sent home on Friday 9th December.**

**Year 5 Leadership Morning:** Tomorrow our Year 5 children will attend a leadership day with the students from James Sheahan. Following the session the Year 5 children and all teachers will vote for the 2017 McAuley Captains and Vice Captains. It is important to acknowledge that although four children receive official badges ALL YEAR 6 CHILDREN are considered leaders in our school and are expected to set a good example for all. The Captains will be announced at our final school Mass on Wednesday 14th December.

**House Captains:** In the final weeks of this year all children from Year 3 to Year 6 will vote for House Captains for 2017. These captains will assist with the sports carnivals and also assist the School and Vice Captains. The House Captains will be announced at our final school Mass on Wednesday 14th December.

**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.

**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.

**Year 6 Mass & Farewell Thursday 10th December:** An invitation to the Year 6 Mass & Farewell has been sent out with the newsletter. 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
The Season of Advent: This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday in the Church’s Season of Advent. In St Matthew’s Gospel this weekend we are introduced to John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin who was the one to proclaim the coming of the Son of God and show how the prophecies were to be fulfilled. John is the messenger, sent by God to ‘do the groundwork’ preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. He appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. John was seen as a bit of a rebel, living on wild honey and locusts out in the wilderness. He didn’t conform to the expectations of the day. He offered people a challenge that made them slightly uncomfortable. This was a challenge that Jesus was to take up. As we continue our Advent journey, what challenges are we facing? Have we taken time yet to start to prepare for Jesus to come to us at Christmas? Maybe this week we could spend a little time thinking about how we will “prepare the way of the Lord.”

Christmas Hampers: Thank you to those who have already sent in items for our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Each year we ask families to donate non-perishable food and Christmas items that can be placed in hampers for St Vincent de Paul to distribute around our Orange district to those who would normally not be in a position to celebrate Christmas. We have been given a list of the food types most needed by St Vincent de Paul. This list went out with last week’s newsletter and the list is also on our website. 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.

Liturgical Music Workshop: Last Monday I accompanied a group of 19 students to a Liturgical Music Workshop at the Conservatorium, conducted by teachers and students from James Sheahan. This was a wonderful experience to see students from all our Orange Catholic Schools joining together to play and sing modern Liturgical music. I would like to thank all at Sheahan who helped to prepare and present this great day, especially Mrs Jackie Shields, Mrs Amber Calleja and their team of teachers and students who helped and supported the primary students in engaging in this workshop. We look forward to working together on similar ventures in the future.

“EXALT”: As a follow-up to the “BLAST16” Diocesan Youth Festival held earlier this year, the Diocesan Youth Ministry team and the Parish of St Joseph and St Mary Orange invite senior students and their families to come along on 2nd December, and enjoy an evening with “Exalt” in Kenna Hall. This evening will commence at 6:00pm with a free sausage sizzle, and will give youth and their families an opportunity to gather, sing, have some fun and spend some time exploring their relationship with God. All families and friends are very welcome. This should be a wonderful night of praise and worship for all. A note went out to Year 5 and Year 6 students this week. If you are able to attend, please return the form catering purposes.

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.

School End of Year Mass: Our Whole School End of Year Mass will take place on, Wednesday, 14th December at 12 noon. 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.

Wishing you a wonderful week, God Bless,

Robyn Petty
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

EXPAND YOUR IMAGINATION BY READING THIS SUMMER

This Summer Reading Challenge is to encourage all students to read, read, read! Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it’s a comic, play, book, e-book or graphic novel.

READ TO LEARN… READ FOR FUN… READ TO WIN

The Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bathurst. Students need to independently read 10 or more age-appropriate books during the summer holidays to go into the draw to win one of four iPad minis.

There are two categories, based on the age the student is on Monday 6th February 2017. The categories are:

Primary - Years K-6 (10 or more)
Secondary - Years 7-12 (5 or more if reading age appropriate novels)

HOW TO ENTER

If you would like to keep an informal record of the books you have read over summer, then download and complete the PERSONAL READING LOG. Once your challenge is complete, enter your list of read books ONLINE HERE to go into the draw for a prize. (Please see the CEO Bathurst Website http://www.bth.catholic.edu.au/) A parent or guardian must confirm books read prior to entry. Entries must be received by 5:00pm, Monday 6th February 2017. The draw will take place on Friday 17th February 2017 and the winners will be published on the Catholic Education website.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Enter the Competition through the Catholic Education website. Entrants must fill out all required fields on the entry form. After submitting the required information on the entry form, the entrant will receive one (1) entry into the drawing. The more materials read, the more chances of entering the competition. You can enter as many times as you like BUT you must have read ten books per entry.

- Four (4) iPad minis to be won. Four (4) prizes to be awarded and each prize consists of one (1) iPad mini. Two prizes to be won from primary school entries. Maximum value is $499.00 each.

- PUBLICITY By participating, each entrant grants sponsor permission to use his/her name, likeness, comments or image for publicity purposes without payment of additional consideration, except where prohibited by law. Please note, photos of the students will be taken during the presentation of prizes. These photos will be used for promotion/publicity of the competition.

Belinda Forbes

INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK

There are 10685 beaches in Australia.
On Monday the 28th of November 19 students from Catherine McAuley joined with St Mary’s School and went to the Orange Conservatorium along with some James Sheahan students. Everyone enjoyed learning new songs and meeting new friends. All the students had lots of fun. Many talented students got to use their amazing talents and they learnt some wonderful new songs.

A special thanks to Mrs Petty for organising this and for all the children who participated and joined in with all the fun.

By Arkie Prisk, Nyidier Wat and Emily Caulfield.
KOALA CLUB BANKING

Please note this week was the last week for Koala Banking for this term. We will recommence Week 3 in Term 1 next year.

AUTHOR IN OUR SCHOOL

Congratulations to Archie Dunn from 5C who is now an official "Author". After entering a writing competition with Write4fun he is having his story published in a book with other stories entered. We will have this book in the library next year for you to read. Congratulations Archie!

YEAR 6 FAREWELL

Anyone who is available to help set up for the Year 6 farewell, please meet in Kenna Hall at 9:00am on Tuesday 13th December.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children who have birthdays this week: Alexander Duffy, Riley Nunn, Charlotte Collins, Anaka Douglas, Ellie Munday, Milla Sampson, Eve Davison, Ella Callow, Lachlan Gander and Olivia Tilston.

TUCKSHOP

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Tuckshop Ph: 6362 0942