



MCCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Integrity

Justice

Peace

7 December 2015



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we draw near to the end of the year, and the second week of Advent, the Church is opening 'The Year of Mercy' on the 8 December, the year will be opened by Pope Francis. He has called for a Jubilee Year of Mercy and is calling us to celebrate this Jubilee as a "special time for the Church: a time when witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

"Thus the Jubilee will be celebrated both in Rome and the Particular Churches as a visible sign of the Church's universal communion." - Pope Francis

The ritual opening of the Holy Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter, December 8, 2015, marks the official start of the Jubilee of Mercy. From that moment, in every Catholic Church in every diocese, the faithful are called to celebrate and live the Jubilee, particularly through the liturgy. For more information go to <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

PICNIC DAY

It was most disappointing to cancel the picnic day due to lack of interest. Unfortunately it cannot proceed with small numbers. The letter home to parents explained what would happen. I ask parents of students who did not respond to support us with school initiatives. School is much more than just lessons, co-curricular activities help create relationships.

CAPTIVATE

Captivate is Catholic Education's creative and performing arts initiative and in 2016, this pathway for deep learning in Music, Dance and Drama will run in HUB schools—Xavier College, Nagle College and the Westmead Precinct. Brochures are available at the school or you can find the link on the College website.

REPORTS, AWARDS and PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

As reported to you on 1 December, reports will be given out on Friday 11 December after the **end of year awards ceremony**. Please inform the College if you are attending the awards ceremony. Invitations were sent out to all parents whose sons/daughters are receiving awards.

Parent teacher interviews are being held on Wednesday 16 December. Interviews can be booked online, please see the College website for a copy of the letter sent home last week.

Please take advantage of these interviews so that we can work together to improve learning outcomes.

APOLOGY

Two wonderful students were misrepresented in the last newsletter: Elayna D'Ermilio and Kiara Auddino represented the school in the Lions Youth of Year Quest (not Rotary Youth). This is a very substantive competition and two overall winners are announced on the night. Elayna D'Ermilio won the overall Public Speaking section.

SCHOOL GOALS 2016

The school goals will be presented to the community in the first newsletter of 2016. They will be focused on Spiritual Formation, Literacy and Numeracy.

STAFF RETIREMENTS

Three McCarthy staff are retiring from teaching after long professional careers.

Mrs Catherine Reid:

Cath has been at McCarthy for eighteen years and in that time has been a part of the English and RE faculty, debating champion, Year adviser and recently, Special Needs teacher.

Mr Edward Sobiesiak:

Ed has been part of the TTC for three years teaching Metals and Engineering. An aspect of his teaching is a real commitment to sustainability, evident by the students building the Lego man from empty gas cylinders and the art installation in the Library (made from metal cast offs).

Mr Glenn Trefoni:

Glenn has been the Assistant Principal at McCarthy for ten years and is well known to all the community. His commitment to restorative justice with young people is widely acknowledged. Glenn has been in the diocese for thirty five years and has held many leadership positions. He is not retiring completely, but will be working in a part time capacity for the Diocese, focusing on attendance.

NEW STAFF 2016

As staff take leave, I will report their replacements. At this stage, new staff/positions for 2016 are as follows:

Mrs Michelle Deschamps - Assistant Principal

Mr Martin Stein - Head of Wellbeing and Pastoral Care (new position)

Mr Robert Feeney - Religious Education Coordinator

Mr John Durkin - Special Needs

Mrs Patricia Gallacher, Mrs Julie Petrovski, Mr Chris Levy - Acting House Coordinators 2016

CLASSES 2016

There will be significant changes to the class groupings in Year 8, 9 and 10 for 2016. All classes are constructed with equal ability levels and gender balance.

Ms Robyn Meddows

Principal

UNIFORM SHOP

January 2016 School Holiday Trading:

Every day of the week from 18 to 22 January 2016 inclusive

There will be on-line bookings for the January school holidays and the Event Code for this will be available from the 18 December 2015, check College website after this date.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Two students from McCarthy attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide. This was a fun, God filled three days where we interacted, listened to talks, played games and conversed with clergy, evangelical speakers and young Catholics from around Australia and the world. Keynote speakers such as Jason Evert, Sr Hilda Scott, Fr Richard Leonard, Garry and Natasha Pinto and Fr Rob Galea gave us insights into our world and how the Catholic faith factors into it.

Kaytee Johnstone - Teacher



UNIFORMS

At McCarthy we are part of a community, therefore students are expected to be proud members of our community by wearing the appropriate uniform with pride.

MATHS IS FUN

There are many online Mathematics sites for students to practise Mathematic and Numeracy related skills. Many of these sites make learning and revision fun. Why not consistently practice your skills these holidays!

BUS CHANGES

Students travelling on **bus 4567**, need to have a temporary pass for the remainder of the term. Students have been made aware of this change. If a student needs to go into Penrith but does not travel on this bus usually, they can receive a bus pass from Mrs Deschamps. The student will need to have a note explaining the reason from their parent.

Students who travel on **bus 795** must travel from school on the bus towards Warragamba. Students will not be permitted to travel on bus 4567 to the station and connect with bus 795. Students attempting to enter the bus at the station will be monitored and their bus pass confiscated.

EXAMS

As your children begin to bring home marked exams, some students will be happy with results, whilst others might be disappointed. It is helpful to take some time to talk with them - providing an opportunity for them to talk about how they feel. Where possible, go through marked exams, looking at the questions and answers, talking about how they interpreted the questions and how they demonstrated their response.

- *Go through the exam paper, underlining key words and instructions with your child*
- *Highlight correct responses, words or ideas in their responses*
- *Discuss additional responses, ideas, words*
- *Talk about the wording of the questions - did they understand the address and what the question was really asking*
- *With questions that were incorrect, talk about what the correct answers could be - "google" ideas, answers if you are unsure*
- *Write correct ideas, words, responses together in a different colour on the paper*
- *File these papers for reference next year when preparing for exams*
- *Discuss the importance of classwork and application throughout the year - study should be revision, not new information*
- *Remind your child that the exams are just one form of assessment and that whilst important, are a way of seeing what they know at the moment and how to move forward.*

TRADE TRAINING CENTRE

Over the past two weeks, we have welcomed schools from across the Parramatta Diocese; Patrician Brother's Blacktown, St Patricks' Marist Dundas and Parramatta Marist College, as they have taken advantage of the TTC facilities to complete bricklaying competencies as part of their HSC Construction delivery. It was very encouraging to see the students pick up the skills demonstrated by their teachers so quickly. We look forward to hosting a number of schools during Term 1 2016.

Mr John Wills

Assistant Principal - Trade Training Centre

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...



DECEMBER	
7 - 8	Year 7 Swim & Lifesaving Program
11	End of Year Mass - 10:15am - McCarthy Semester 2 Awards Ceremony - 1:00pm
16	Parent Teacher Interviews
17 - 18	Staff Development Days