



# MCCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*Integrity*

*Justice*

*Peace*

*8 February 2016*

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL...

Dear Parents and Guardians

All staff want students to challenge themselves in 2016 and to rise to challenges presented to them. Every student has the ability to learn. Instead of approaching difficult tasks with "I can't do that", instead we want students to approach difficulty with "I have not learnt that yet!".

We ask our parents to encourage their child with the same response. Whilst many of us may have had difficulty in various subjects at school, we do not want to block our students learning growth by replying with "I can't do that or I was never good at that". In particular, every student had varied strengths, therefore our past weaknesses will not be transferred to our children.

The challenge for all McCarthy students this year is to aim for your best in all aspects of school life and make 2016 your best school year!

**Mrs Michelle Deschamps**  
Assistant Principal



### **Uniform Shop**

#### **Uniform Shop Trading Days and Hours**

##### **During School Terms**

**Tuesday:** 8.15am to 9.00am

**Thursday:** 8.15am to 9.00am

Recess - Students only

**Appointments 2-3pm** - book this through School Interviews Online via the McCarthy website -

Code: 7NE9Y (this code is for Term 1 2016 only).

**Blazers** - if your child requires a new blazer, this needs to be ordered and paid for in full by Friday 12 February 2016.

### **CENSUS DAY - Friday 12 February 2016**

If you know your child will be away on this day please advise the school in writing before this date.

If your child is away unexpectedly on this day please ensure you provide a written note explaining their absence on their first day back to school.

### **Christmas Hampers**

The St Vincent de Paul Emu Plains parish group have passed on their thanks to McCarthy staff, students and parents who contributed money, food and presents for their 2015 Christmas hampers. Your generosity meant that approximately sixty individuals and families in our community had a brighter Christmas. Also, a special thanks to all those who contributed to the loose change collection at the canteen.

## ENCOURAGING TEENAGERS TO READ...

1. Once a week, unplug everything (it won't always be popular) and bring out the books - don't give in!
2. Talk to one another about books, plays, comics, poetry, magazines etc.
3. Read aloud while making dinner/doing household chores.
4. Model reading and talk about the books you like to read.
5. Buy your teenager magazines about the things they're interested in...bikes, running, cars, fashion etc.
6. Put awesome reading material in the bathroom. Seems crazy...but it works! It has to be something they'd want to read. Try comic books or joke books. As long as they are reading printed material, it's all good.

## MCC Parent Literacy and Numeracy Site

Please check out the MCC Parent Literacy and Numeracy Site for supporting your child at home. Regular support material is added to the site. Items included support areas such as study, organising classwork, assessments.



## MCC Teaching and Learning 2016

Students this year will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of exciting learning agendas. These include Big History Project, Learning Innovation for Teachers (LIFT), Higher Order Thinking and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The learning initiatives extend and challenge our students.

## MCC EM4

As teachers, both data and research play a significant role in informing the majority, if not, all of our teaching at McCarthy Catholic College. The Catholic Education Office, Parramatta has trained and facilitated it's English and Mathematics staff members in a valuable course over the past 2 years titled EM4. This course stands for English and Mathematics Stage 4 and is aimed at specific teaching strategies that teachers are to employ for Year 7 and 8 students to improve their literacy and numeracy. My role as the EM4 Coordinator, is to assist all staff members implement these strategies into their teaching programs and lesson plans. This year, our data has informed us that our students lack in their comprehension skills. So as a school initiative, EM4 is focusing on the Super Six Comprehension strategies. This is a very positive move forward towards improving our student's reading and understanding; and we hope to work together with our parents to assist in our student's improvement.

**Mrs Marian Samuel**

## MCC LLI

At MCC we have implemented a program to support students who experience difficulties with reading - the Levelled Literacy Intervention program (LLI). This is a small-group, supplementary literacy intervention designed to help teachers provide powerful, daily, small-group instruction for those students. In LLI lessons, students read books that have been written for specifically for the program, focusing on fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

## Parent Workshop: 6.00pm Wednesday 17 February

We warmly welcome all parents along to explore strategies to support your child's learning at home. Topics covered will be eDiary, EM4, School Goals and our Teaching and Learning initiatives for 2016

## THE BIG HISTORY PROJECT

The Big History Project is an initiative started by David Christian and endorsed by Macquarie University. The Big History Project provides students with a framework for all knowledge, from the Big Bang to modern day into the future! In 2015 our Big History students completed the first five units of the Big History Project with great success. Our students created their own woodwork replica of the supercontinent Pangea, their own modified animal species and cracked World War Two enigma codes. The Big History Project is a spectacular way for students to extend their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. It is also a great way for students across grades to get to know their peers and teaching staff. We look forward to an exciting 2016!

## MATHS HELP

Maths Help is running again in 2016. This year it will operate on Monday and Thursday after school in the library until 4:00pm. For those new to the College, Maths Help provides students in Years 7-12 with the opportunity to receive one on one assistance with their mathematics from a range of Mathematics teachers. Students can attend regularly or as the need arises. Students who attended regularly were generally rewarded with much improved results. The Mathematics Department looks forward to seeing you!

**Mr Rob Stephenson**

**Mathematics Coordinator**

It is with much gratitude that I thank the McCarthy Catholic College community for my warm welcome. Students and staff have been very positive and that certainly has been appreciated. I certainly have hit the ground running as I work with the House Coordinators to consider changes to allow the students to feel safer and encourage the best possible learning environments for all. We are currently reviewing our Student Management Plan and our Uniform Policy to ensure staff, students and parents are all aware of the rules. In schools, it is often through the little things that we can make the big things happen. Your support of the school in enforcing the 'little things' will help the students achieve the big things!

**Mr Martin Stein**

**Head of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing**

Caritas Australia is celebrating 50 years of Project Compassion with the theme "Learning more, creating change", by demonstrating how education, training and sharing knowledge is empowering individuals and communities in six countries around the world to transform their futures and create lasting change. At McCarthy Catholic College we support Caritas Australia in Term 1.

Did you know that you can download a Lent Calendar for your smart phone, or use the web version and set it as your homepage, to 'Learn More' and 'Create Change' this Lent?

Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent and learn about Caritas Australia's work in six countries across the globe. Explore Project Compassion, meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings, prayers and social justice actions.

In the Religious Education classroom students will investigate the stories presented by Caritas and supported by families will help to contribute to the lasting change as they learn to engage in authentic social action.

**Mr Robert Feeney**

**Religious Education Coordinator**

### [Welcome to Personal Development, Health and Physical Education for 2016.](#)

PDHPE teachers have been working hard to provide a learning environment for student's that builds empathy in the classroom and uncovers passion. The student work that has begun over the first week or so has helped the PDHPE teachers to amplify worthy ideas and encourage breakthroughs. Some of our Year 12 students performed in role-plays to help them understand how to apply TOTAPS, RICER and DRSABCD during sport related first aid scenarios. Year 9 students have started leading their peers through net and court games, and are innovating ideas to help them build resilience. Luke's gospel value of 'Love Your Enemies' is going to be an important focus during this period: "**Do to others as you would have them do to you**". Year 8 are preparing for Rio, Brazil by engaging Olympic Sports and are being encouraged to question the risk and realities behind misusing drugs. Year 7 have started team sports to help them understand the value of being a team player, and are developing skills to help them cope with changes and challenges this year. Year 10 are preparing their Major Assignment on Road Safety, and have been planning practical activities to deliver to their peers. Year 12 CAFS students are finalising their IRP's, while Year 11 teachers are helping Year 11 students to adapt to a great challenge in front of them. A message from the PDHPE staff : Students are encouraged to accept responsibility for their well being, and as Eubanks stated "hard work is what keeps the ship moving".

**Mr Ben Hunt**

**PDHPE Coordinator**



### [SPORT NEWS...](#)

Congratulations are to be extended to McCarthy students for a number of outstanding sporting performances recently.

\* Madison Higgins-Ashby (Year 10) and Sarah Blair (Year 10) have both been selected into the Australian U/16 Oz Tag Team to play in New Zealand this year. To have two students from the one school selected into an Australian Team is a great achievement and we wish both girls every success.

\* Cooper Halfpenny (Year 8), Mathew Crossley (Year 11) and Shailee Bartle (Year 12) have been selected into an Australian Futsal Team.

\* On Monday 8th February, Jacob Donaldson (Year 12), Joshua Ryan (Year 12, 2015) and Robert Bird (Year 12, 2015) are receiving NSWCCC Blues Awards at a ceremony at St Patricks College, Sutherland. Jacob and Joshua were named in the Australian Merit Softball Team after the Pacific School Games in October last year, while Robert was the NSWCCC Touch Football Captain. Congratulations to all these boys on their well deserved success.

**Mr Craig Beacroft**

**Sports Coordinator**

### [Trade Training Centre News...](#)

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new Year 11 students and their families undertaking the TTC pathway for 2016 and to those McCarthy students joining the program. Students in Year 12 TTC will begin their first Industry/VET placement in Week 4. Students are to ensure they liaise with Mr Tim Summers, Leader of Learning - Industry and Workplace for trade industry placement and their Business/Finance teachers for their VET placement. Once again I would like to thank all the local business who give up their time to support these students on their placements.

**Mr John Wills**

**Assistant Principal—Trade Training Centre**