Dear Parents and all in the McAuley Community,

Sayings of Catherine McAuley. ‘Be ever ready to praise, to encourage, to stimulate, but slow to censure and still more slow to condemn.’ from The Little Book of Catherine of Dublin

McAuley Day. This occurred today and remains an important opportunity for our College community to celebrate and reflect on the commitment and discipleship shown by Catherine McAuley, after whom our school is named. Many of you would be well aware of her story. She inherited considerable wealth in her middle years in the early 1800s and used that wealth to purchase property and build a school and refuge for the poor, uneducated and often-abused girls living in Baggot St, Dublin, Ireland, which was in the wealthier part of town. Many of these girls were servants and workers for the ‘upper-class’ in the area. Catherine brought together other committed, like-minded women to care for and educate these girls and, of course, out of this group grew the Religious Institute or Order of the Sisters of Mercy. Some few years later in 1884, a courageous group of Sisters of Mercy sailed up the Clarence River to begin their ministry here in Grafton, a ministry which continues to this day. The history is inspiring and interesting, but the cutting edge for us, here and now, is how are we being responsive and committed to this Mercy ideal of service? Encouraging students to embrace their faith and get involved in ‘Faith in Action’ has always been a high priority for us and we continue to support this.

Condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Joe family on the tragic death of Kiara in an accident. Kiara attended Grafton High School and was well known to many of our students and staff. Her sister Tahnee works here as a Teacher Assistant.

Start of Term 4. Monday 5th October is a public holiday and Tuesday 6th October is a student free day (Staff Professional Development Day), so students return to school on Wednesday 7th October.

Fr Jim Griffin’s Anniversary. Congratulations to our Parish Priest Fr Jim Griffin who celebrates 40 years of Ordination to the Priesthood this weekend. We wish him well.

Congratulations. Our School Captains for the next 12 months have been elected. Chrisma Shaji and Damian Ashby have been elected as College Captains with Isabella Davis and Clancy McGregor as Vice-Captains. The Ministry Leaders and House Captains will be announced very soon and the remaining positions on the Student Leadership Team will be filled soon after from Year 10 and Year 9.

HSC Students. Please keep our Year 12 students in your thoughts and prayers as they enter their final weeks of formal schooling. Important dates have been listed in a letter to parents from Mr Lobsey but please note the following:

Tuesday 15th September. Parent Breakfast at 7.30am; Community Service Day; Mass at 5.30pm at St Mary’s, Grafton.

Wednesday 16th September. Student/Staff Challenges at 8.50am; Beach Day

Thursday 17th September at 9.15am. Graduation Liturgy and Awards in the Hall.

Safety in the Car-Park. Would all parents and carers of student drivers please reinforce our constant message of the need for low-speed, careful and safe driving around the College. There have been some ‘near-misses’ recently. Students found to be reckless in or near the College will have driving permission withdrawn.

Attendance at School on last day. If you have children in Years 7-11, please note that school continues until Friday 18th September, which is a normal school day. There will be pressure on parents from some students to allow ‘permissive truancy’ on the Thursday and/or Friday, but I ask parents to resist that pressure.

YourTutor. This initiative from the Stellar team (part of the Clarence Valley Industry Education Forum) gives students in Years 9-12 very high standard online tutoring at no cost. All tutors are screened and highly trained. As expected, the tutors won’t provide ‘answers’ which save the student from doing the work, but they will provide direction and support. Stellar is paying the bill and those students who have accessed the service have been very appreciative, but present indicators are that not enough students are using the service to justify the expense. If we don’t use it, we lose it!
HSC Marking. Practical projects and major works have now been completed in several HSC subjects. Woodwork and Textiles projects were marked last week along with the Drama performances. Art will be assessed soon.

Thanks to the P&F for operating a Canteen at the last Social. Their efforts are always appreciated and we are fortunate to have such support.

Travelling to and from school in cars. Students who want to travel to or from school as a driver or as a passenger in a car driven by another student MUST have lodged a permission form with our office staff before they travel. A random decision to travel in other cars is not permitted. Access to student vehicles during the day is not permitted as a security measure. The revised Permission to Drive to and from School forms and policy are available from the Office.

Enrolments for 2016. Interviews are proceeding for places in Year 7 for 2016. If you know of Year 6 students at other schools who want to attend MCC, please ask parents to contact the College Office to get an enrolment pack.

Yearbook. We are seeking sponsorship of the Yearbook again this year to make the cost more affordable. Yearbooks are excellent ‘keepsakes’ which not only form a record of what happened, but also remind us in later years of the students or staff at school at the same time. Families willing to sponsor a page can do so for $25.00, while any business owners able to help can purchase a quarter-page advert for $50.00. For details contact the College Office on mccgraf@lism.catholic.edu.au.

Leon Walsh
Principal

INDONESIAN
This week we had a visit from Yudis a young Indonesian teacher who spent two days working with Year 7 and Year 8. The Year 7 students were introduced to some basic Indonesian language while the Year 8 Indonesian classes were taught how to cook mie goreng. The students enjoyed the lessons and threw themselves into the food preparation and cooking. It was a fun couple of days for our students.

CAREERS
Sunshine Sugar are seeking apprentices for Fitter / Welder, Electrician, Administration, Laboratory and Stores and will be holding an information session at Harwood Mill on Friday Sept 25th at 10am. See Mr Paton for further information if you are interested.

Year 10 Careers
Students in Year 10 participate in work experience towards the end of Term 4. This year it will be held from November 23 - 27 which is Week 8. Students have been researching their options during Careers class with many having organised their placements already. If your child has not done so please discuss their options and begin to list alternatives they can seek at this important time in their career pathway.

Construction Induction Card ( White Card )
The general induction training covers persons entering the construction industry. Students learn the WHS requirements, the common hazards encountered on construction sites and how these risks should be controlled. Year 10 students who will be working in the construction industry for work experience will need this qualification. Students are encouraged to enrol now. Information is available from the Careers Office.

Year 12
Careers classes have been focusing on University Early Entry, the University Scholarships available and the University enrolment procedures. Please ensure you discuss these options with your child and be mindful of the closing dates. For further information refer to the school website - Community - Careers - Universities and TAFES.

Mr Paton
HSC MAJOR WORKS
The Industrial Technology – Timber class worked exhaustingly all year in order to produce some fine furniture works for their Higher School Certificate. As usual, the pressure of time was on to complete the projects on the due date. The students just managed to fit hardware and do final polishing of their projects before submission time. The projects were very successful and presented well for marking. They included a large Red Cedar media cabinet, a contemporary display cabinet in Red Cedar and Silver Ash, a Blackwood study desk, a Cedar and Rosewood bar and a Rosewood and Pine blanket box. All lovely projects and the Industrial Technology students should be proud of their achievements.

Australian Under 16 School Boys Hockey Team
Congratulations to Sam Young on being selected in the Australian under 16 School Boys Hockey Team. This is a well-deserved achievement for a dedicated and focussed player. Sam is also our College under 16 Hockey Captain and a role model to junior students.

Mcauley Hockey Club
Three of the four McAuley hockey teams have so far made it through to grand finals to be played on Saturday 12th September. McAuley White in 1st Grade, McAuley Gold in 3rd Grade and McAuley Magic in 5th Grade. McAuley Red play this coming Sunday in the final. Good luck to the Red's and we hope to see them make the grand final also. Mrs Lee will place game times on the noticeboard at school for those interested in supporting our College hockey teams.

Tiffany Lee

SHINE Gathering
Thursday, 20th to Friday, 21st August, Year 9 and 10 CSYMA students, along with 7 Year 11 students from the Senior Youth Ministry Team travelled to Coff’s Harbour to participate in the annual SHINE Gathering. The gathering brought together all the CSYMA students in the Diocese, which meant that over 600 students attended. The SHINE Gathering was all about gathering with other young people from across the Diocese for a common experience – encountering Jesus Christ and the Church, experiencing dynamic faith, being equipped for ministry and living the Christian life. Over the two days the students participated in prayer, small groups, workshops, a rally which included key note speakers Sam Clear and Fr Bonny, from Canberra. Our Year 11 students, along with several Year 10 students ran small groups over the two days, while Lucy Bindon was one of the two MC’s for the event. All of our students did the College proud as they engaged in all activities that the SHINE Gathering offered them.

Ignite Conference 2015: “One”
24 - 27 September 2015
Mueller Performing Arts Centre, Rothwell (Redcliffe, Brisbane)

The Ignite Conference is the largest Catholic event of its kind in Australia for young people - adults, teenagers and children. The conference includes live bands and awesome speakers, with streams and workshops in areas such leadership, worship, creative arts, mission, culture and prayer!

Full information online at www.igniteconference.com.au
CANTEEN ROSTER

September
Mon 7  M. Creighton
Tue 8  J. Hatgis, L. Lougher
Wed 9  HELP NEEDED
Thu 10 B. Walker
Fri 11  M. Ross
Mon 14 M. Creighton
Tue 15 J. Hatgis, L. Lougher
Wed 16 K. Barnett
Thu 17 B. Walker
Fri 18 A. Geary - End of Term 3

October
Mon 5  Public Holiday
Tue 6  Staff Development Day
Wed 7  HELP NEEDED - (Students Return Term 4)
Thu 8  B. Walker
Fri 9  A. Geary
Mon 12 C. Scurrah, J. Arnott
Tue 13 J. Hatgis, L. Lougher
Wed 14 S. Parker
Thu 15 HELP NEEDED
Fri 16 K. Barnett

DATES TO REMEMBER

September
Tue 8  Debating Year 9 and 10
       House Captains Announced
Wed 9  Year 10 Ag Excursion
Thu10/Wed16 Year 11 Exams
       NRCC Cricket
Tue 15 Year 12 Parent Breakfast and Assembly
       Year 12 Community Service Day
       Year 12 Mass 5.30pm
Wed 16 Year 12 Beach Day
Thur 17 Year 12 Graduation Awards - Hall 9.15am
Fri 18  End Term 3


MASS TIMES

St. Mary’s - Grafton
Saturday Vigil 5pm
Sunday Mass 8am

St. Patrick’s - South Grafton
Saturday Vigil  5pm
Sunday Mass  9.30am

Cowper
Sunday
8am Mass

Copmanhurst
First and third Sunday of the month at 10am

St. James - Yamba
Saturday 5.30pm

St. John’s - Iluka
Sunday 5pm

St. Mary’s - Maclean
Sunday 8.30am

Why books light up our world
By Ellen McCarthy

Books light up our world as they allow our mind to be swept up through time and lead us to explore and adventure new insights that are driven by our imaginations. Books allow us to be a part of and explore a world different from our own. Books fill us with new experiences which enables us to learn new things. They allow creative juices to flow and inspire the creation of new ideas. Books let our minds wander and experience another world but they also provide us with tools for education. With these combined books enable us to light up our world.

Mark Bellamy