Dear Parents and all in the McAuley Community,

Sayings of Catherine McAuley. ‘Never speak with contempt of any nation, profession or people’… from The Little Book of Catherine of Dublin.

Orientation for next year’s students. We welcomed the 2016 Year 7 group to the College on Tuesday for Orientation. All students seemed to have a great day. Parents attended a session in the evening and had an opportunity to learn a little about the school. Thanks to the many parents who attended.

Student Leadership Team. Year 10 have elected 4 students to represent Year 11 next year. Congratulations to Cassie Elward, Molly Hargans, Daniel Norton and Samuel Young. Year 9 have voted and the successful candidates will be announced at next week’s Assembly.

Congratulations to Alexandra Nash, whose project for this year’s HSC Textiles and Design course has been selected for the ‘Texstyle Exhibition’ in March next year at the Rosehill Racecourse; also Lucinda Bell, who has won a Business Studies competition run by the University of Newcastle and is in the last 4 for the State-wide final (details in last week’s newsletter).

Remembrance Day. We marked this important time of commemoration by holding a short ceremony and observing a period of silence at 11.00am on the day. A group of senior students attended the South Grafton Memorial service and Harry Bellamy from Year 11 gave the address which focussed on the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s.

Stellar. Well done to the Year 9 students who went to UNE Armidale for the Stellar event as part of the activities sponsored by the Clarence Valley Industry Education Forum. As expected, reports from staff at the University spoke highly of the attentiveness, engagement and behaviour of our students. Thanks to Mr Bellamy, Ms McHugh, Mrs McLennan and Mr Humphries.

Excursions and Activities. Several classes have been busy with scheduled excursions including Year 7 HSIE to Dorrigo, Year 9 HSIE to Wooli and Year 8 on a Surf Awareness Day.

Thank you to our HSC Supervisors for their care and professionalism over the HSC Exam period. This group, ably led by Mrs Trish McLennan as Presiding Officer, are engaged by the Board of Studies, but continue to keep a watchful eye over our students at this busy time.

Enrolment of Year 6 students. Any parents who have not submitted an enrolment application for their Year 6 son or daughter for next year should do so urgently. There are still some places available.

Yearbook. Any more sponsors for our Yearbook? We are seeking sponsorship of the Yearbook to make the cost more affordable. 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.

Students Leaving: The parents of students not returning to McAuley Catholic College next year are asked to notify me, in writing, as soon as possible. We are currently very busy planning for 2016 so information about student plans for next year is essential as we are setting up classes and considering the enrolments of prospective students for next year.

Parish Tuition Fees and Subject Resource Fees. Thanks to the many families who are keeping up to date with these payments, however we are not able to ‘make ends meet’ at present due to the large amount of unpaid fees. Parish Tuition fees and Subject Resource fees can be paid in various ways such as BPay or EFT. As we approach the end of the year, please remember that the College will not distribute school reports if accounts are not paid or if we have not heard from you if you are experiencing financial hardship. It is imperative that you contact the Bursar or the Principal to make an alternative arrangement if this is the case. Also, if we have not heard from you to discuss non-payment of fees, your son or daughter will be excluded from attendance at non-compulsory excursions and all sports trips.
This includes ‘end-of-year’ activities which involve high costs. Please contact Mr Eris Hackett at the Parish Office if you are struggling to pay the account generated from the Parish Office.

**Uniform Information.** Just a reminder to please check our uniform requirements before you outlay money for shoes and other costly items and please remember that sometimes students tell you what they would like the rules to be rather than what they really are.

- School shoes must be black, polishable leather, lace-up with a defined heel. **All four conditions must be met.** This means that any canvas shoes – no matter how ‘black’ they are (Vollies, Vans, Converse, DCs, skate shoes etc) are **not** allowed and must not be worn. This applies also to leather Vans, Kustom, Globe and other fashion or surf shoes which do not have sufficient structure (including heels) to satisfy our safety needs. They do not meet our safety standards or our uniform requirements.

- There are to be NO facial piercings for nose-studs, nose rings etc and clear ‘spacers’ are not allowed. Ear-piercings are limited to no more than two sleepers or studs in each ear. There is no scope to be flexible around this directive, so please save your money and wait until your son or daughter no longer attends this school before allowing piercings of this nature.

**Leon Walsh,**
**Principal**

**MCAULEY - INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY - JACARANDA**

Each year, the Northern Rivers Woodworkers Association hosts a woodcraft display at the South Grafton Services Club, during Jacaranda. They invite schools in the Clarence Valley to enter student projects in various categories for judging and the opportunity to win awards. This year, McAuley Catholic College Industrial Technology entered twelve student timber projects and achieved eleven awards. The students received certificates of recognition as well as cash prizes.

- Sally Alford – Highly commended - Years 7 and 8.
- Anna Jenkins – Equal 1st Prize – Years 7 and 8.
- Nick Lawson – Equal 1st Prize – Years 7 and 8.
- Morgan Parkin – Highly commended – Years 7 and 8.
- Oscar Brennan – Highly commended – Years 7 and 8.
- Olivia Alford – Highly commended – Year 9.
- Matt Lambert – Highly commended – Year 10
- Jacob Kempnich – Highly commended – Year 10.
- Blake Newton – 1st Prize – Year 10.
- Brendan Keene in Year 11 won 1st Prize in the Open category of any project in wood and also received a voucher for $350 worth of timber towards his HSC Major Project.

All of these quality entries contributed to McAuley Catholic College being awarded the Most Successful School again this year and receiving a cheque to put towards some woodworking equipment in the workshop.

Congratulations to all of these crafts people.

**Craig Perring**
**Leader of TAS**
DAILY EXAMINER TOUCH FOOTBALL
Monday 2nd November saw the rescheduled Daily Examiner Touch Football competition in Yamba. McAuley entered a Junior Boys and Girls and Senior Boys and Girls teams along with South Grafton High School, Maclean High School, Clarence Valley Anglican School and St Andrew’s Christian School. All players proudly represented our College and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Senior Boys improved each game and made the final against Maclean High. The game was close with Maclean leading 3-2, until they ran away with some late tries. Excellent performances from the Ashby brothers and Bailey Sinclair was deceptive in attack. Senior Boys were undefeated after playing each school once. However, they lost to Maclean High in the return game and had a draw with South Grafton High also. Jack Cooney was dangerous with the ball and Jake Ellis was very consistent. Junior Boys were undefeated after playing each school once. They lost to Maclean High in the return game and had a draw with South Grafton High also. Jack Cooney was dangerous with the ball and Jake Ellis was very consistent. They went through the competition undefeated and came away as the champion team. Lyteeka Currie was named Player of the Series.

TEXTILES NEWS!
Exciting Textiles news! A big congratulations to Alexandra Nash. Her Major Textiles Project and Folio have made it into the BOSTES Textiles Exhibition - Texstyle. This is a very elite showcase only awarded to student works that demonstrate exemplary skills and techniques. Texstyle recognises excellence in design, innovation and creativity, featuring over 40 outstanding major design projects from 2015 HSC Textiles and Design students. The projects represent the breadth of skills that students can gain through the HSC Textiles and Design course across a range of focus areas – apparel, non-apparel, costume, textile arts and furnishings.

St. Mary's Conference
St. Vincent De Paul Society
St Mary’s Conference St. Vincent de Paul Society is appealing to parents, grandparents of children in our schools, and other parishioners to join our Conference; it is not a requirement that members have to be Catholic. We have set the way in our Diocese, and the state, by directly involving senior students from McAuley Catholic College in our work, it is a great success. The students who are doing this work attest to how rewarding it is to be assisting in our own community. We provide much needed assistance to families and individuals in our community, and have had over 400 calls for assistance, and assisted nearly 900 people so far this financial year. We are appealing to parishioners who can spare three hours on a Monday or Thursday morning, one week in three, from 9am until midday. We also open on Saturday morning with working adults and the senior students. In the two primary schools there are active Mini Vinnies groups. Please contact Barry 0428 432 014.
What does being a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society mean to you, comments from two McAuley Catholic College members.
“Volunteering at Vinnies has not only gained me great life experience but also a new found value for those less fortunate. People who suffer homelessness, financial disadvantage etc frequently go un-noticed and to know I have fed their family for the week, or payed a portion of their electricity to save them from living in the dark is such a satisfying feeling. Vinnies has taught me not to take my own life for granted because there are people out there suffering silently.” KS
“I enjoy my involvement with Vinnies as there are many people within our community who need help. It is nice to be making a difference and seeing them smile.” TD.

YEAR 8 BEACH SAFETY AND AWARENESS DAY
Tuesday, 10th November Year 8 students went to Woolgoolga beach as a part of their studies in PDHPE. Students were provided with the opportunity to develop their skills in basic first aid including CPR, increase their awareness of surf conditions, experience the beach flag event, play beach games and they also got to swim in the beautiful Woolgoolga surf.

Many thanks to Mrs Sue Neil and the Woolgoolga Surf Lifesaving Club and some of its members for helping to organise the day and for allowing us to use the club facilities. Thanks also to the student lifesavers who kept us safe and helped out with the activities. It was a great day and Year 8 students are to be commended on their participation and contribution.

Mrs Tiffany Lee
Leader of PDHPE
CANBERRA EXCURSION

Students from our School have recently undertaken an education tour of the National Capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the National Capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $30.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following teachers for their support and giving their own time up to go on the excursion. Miss Johnson, Mr Howard, Miss Norton, Mr Kennedy, Mr Lobsey and Mrs Bartholomew.

REPORT FROM THE STUDENTS

Day 1 - Last week on Sunday, 17th of October Year 10 left for Canberra at 5am in the morning. It was long drive with of course, very little sleep. We arrived around 5 PM at the YHA of Sydney with a 5:30 dinner and a 6:30 mass. Those who had never seen the Sydney Cathedral church were amazed at the beauty it entailed.

Day 2 - On Tuesday having the opportunity to walk over the Sydney Harbour Bridge was definitely worth the 5:30am start. However, some would disagree. By the time they got back it was time for breakfast and we were willing to get going for the Sydney Jewish Museum and Australian Institute of Sport. Whilst learning about the Holocaust in History at the moment we were all very interested to meet survivors of the Holocaust one in particular Olga Horak who was brave enough to talk to us about her experience in this heartbreaking time. In 2000 she published her book ‘Auschwitz to Australia’ and has sold over 10,000 copies. It was then time for the AIS in Canberra and although our time was limited we made the most of it by visiting the Gymnasts and playing around in their sports arena placing bronze, silver and gold.

Day 3 - After departing our accommodation at the YHA in Canberra it was time for the National Capital Exhibition where we learnt all about Canberra and how it came to be the capital city of Australia. After we experienced a tour of the High Courts we had many different opinions on its ability to interpret the Constitution of Australia. Art was a must with Mr Ellis as our trip advisor so next was the National Portrait Gallery where pictures were interpreted by the many art students in our Year 10 classes. Many of us were unsure of the word ‘Questacon’ but it was also known as the National Science and Technology Centre but to us a huge house of fun relating to science and many other things around the world.

Day 4 - Beginning our Wednesday with a tour of Parliament House was exciting but many of us were more excited for the free shopping time, it was then back to Parliament House for question time which was very engaging. However the words “cease interjecting” were used one to many times.

Day 5 - Day 5 was the last day of camp was disappointing. However, knowing we were departing Canberra for Luna Park in Sydney was a must and then it was home time.

On behalf of Year 10 we would just like to acknowledge and thank all the teachers for taking time away from their families and friends to look after us on our trip. A round of applause is truly deserved. Thank you Year 10 for a great trip.

Report written Cassie Elward and Molly Hargans

Cricket

Tuesday, 20 October the College Junior Cricket Team played St Marys Casino in the first round of the Berg Shield. St Marys won the toss and elected to bat. It was a hard day in the field for our Junior Boys. They put down a few chances, however they never gave up. St Marys put a total of 150 with Aaron Ashby taking 4 wickets for 26 runs, Ethan Cahill taking 3 for 8 and Oliver Scott taking 2 for 33. St Marys had very good opening bowlers but fortunately for McAuley they could not control the swing of the ball and bowled a lot of deliveries of the pitch. Our batsman where patient and took their chances with the bat. Aaron Ashby top scored with 50 and was backed up by Nick Lawson 36 and Eli Fahey 17. The boys reached the total with 9 overs to spare. They now look to play Trinity on Wednesday 18th November and we wish them all the best.

Volleyball

Friday, 16 October the School took 4 teams to the Annual Diocesan Volleyball Championships. It was a great day and all our teams represented our school with pride and passion. The junior boys and girls played very well but where at times against more experienced teams. They learnt a lot and had fun. The senior teams also played very well and where very competitive. The open boys unfortunately came up against Port Macquarie in the first round and sadly lost only by a few points. They went on to the grand final. Our boys never lost another game. It was great to see their competitive spirit and to see them go so close. I would like to thank Mr Humphries and Ms Hargreaves for helping coach the teams.

Tennis

Tuesday, 3 November 12 of our students competed in the Diocesan Tennis Championships. The day looked like it was going to rain but luckily it held off. There was an excellent display of tennis across all divisions this year, possibly stronger than previous years. Our students played very well with our Junior Girls, Mary Irwin and Alainie Shankland getting a silver medal for runners-up. This year for the first time the Open Division was contested as a team for 4, consisting of an A team and a B team. Both our teams played very well with our Open Boys Brayden Lewis, Aaron Ashby, Ryan Hubbard and Sam Page getting a silver medal for coming runners-up. I would like to thank Mrs Sarah Coates for organising and managing the McAuley team. I would also like to thank Mr Phil Beckman for the use of the Grafton City Tennis courts.

James Hand, Sports Co-ordinator
There is a big change coming to the Mercy Library for 2016. This week we began the enormous task of genrefying the fiction collection. What this means is that the fiction collection will no longer be arranged alphabetically but it will be arranged by genre or type, such as mystery, biography, war etc.

Why are we doing this? There are a number of reasons but the most important is to make the 4000+ titles more accessible to our students and therefore encourage more reading and improve literacy levels. We are often asked by students for a type of book, so it will be much easier for them to locate what they like to read. It will also enable teachers to quickly assemble book boxes for wide reading. Most of the other Diocesan High Schools have their fiction collections assembled in this way. On a practical level it will allow us to stocktake more quickly and efficiently.

So the next few weeks will be interesting as we make decisions about where books belong, recatalogue them electronically and rearrange the shelving.

Mark Bellamy
Dear Parents and Carers

Over the coming weeks the Catholic Schools Office will be implementing a student data download limit at McAuley Catholic College to manage the amount of non-educational data download which occurs occasionally.

This has been successfully trialled with our current Year 8 group and is now being extended to the whole student body.

Students will be allocated 2GB data per month to use for education purposes as outlined in the Acceptable Network Use Policy.

- Once this 2GB limit has been reached the students access to the internet will be limited to Google Drive, Google Classroom and Moodle for the rest of the calendar month unless they make a request for more.
- More data may be requested by logging on to the College Moodle site and using the help desk link. As the College Moodle is on our local network they will still be able to access this site.
- Each request must include an explanation of why they need more data.
- Each request will be received and considered by the Catholic Schools Office helpdesk and students may be given extra data to be used for educational purposes. Additional data will be provided only once per calendar month.
- Students who are enrolled in online courses and courses which require constant use of the internet will be allocated more data as necessary.

While students may lose internet access due to excessive downloading they will not lose access to the school network and they will still be able to print and access school files.

Please call me on the school number 0266431434, if you would like to discuss this matter further

Sincerely

Lex Carruthers
Learning Technologies Coordinator
McAuley Catholic College

Cordially invites you to attend a reception in the honour of our retiring Principal

Mr LEON WALSH

Monday 7 December 2015

5 for 5.30pm to be held in the College Grounds

Drinks & Nibbles

Catered by

Yr 11 Hospitality Students

Cost $10 per head

(to be paid at the office)

RSVP & Payment by 2/12/2015

grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au

or phone 6643 1434
Parent and carer information evening

- Factual information about youth mental health
- Practical information about how parents can talk to young people about mental health and distress
- A space for parents to ask questions and voice concerns
- Information and skills for supporting young people going through grief
- Information on building resilience in young people.

This information session is available to parents and carers only. Spaces are limited so please RSVP to 66421466

When
Wednesday 18th November, 6:00-7:30pm

Where
Grafton Library, 126-144 Pound Street
Grafton NSW 2460

Contact
Please RSVP to South Grafton High School on 6642 1466. Any enquiries regarding the presentation can be directed to McAuley Catholic College
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