Dear Parents and all in the McAuley Community,

Christ the King and Advent. The feast of Christ the King last weekend marked the end of the Liturgical Year. This solemnity is a recent addition to the calendar, established in 1925 by Pius XI, the pope at that time, to highlight the leadership model left by Jesus. Pius XI did this to counter the emerging power at that time of dictators Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini, among others, who exhibited a style of leadership far-removed from that of Jesus. Some would argue they saw themselves as ‘royalty’ so Pius XI used the title ‘Christ the King’ to highlight the real nature of kingship. I read the following recently and thought it was worth sharing.

Jesus’ leadership is one that empowers, recognises the gifts of others and presents guidelines not ultimatums. Not everyone is meant to be a leader. Leaders can only exist where followers exist. Leadership is never easy, but Jesus left a leadership model that listens, laughs, demarcates, accepts responsibility, communicates and leads to God. And that is what the Feast of Christ the King celebrates.

I thought this view was a refreshing variation to our entrenched sense of ‘king’ and ‘royalty’. Jesus is accessible to all of us and the start of Advent and approach of Christmas is a great time to reflect on this and our relationship to Jesus. The sense of leadership and spirit of outreach will hopefully be very evident in our students as they work in their Homerooms to collect much-needed items for the Christmas Hampers which the local St Vincent de Paul group can then distribute to the needy families in our community. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Some Words from Catherine McAuley: ‘Try to act at all times and places, that if our Divine Lord were to appear on earth again, he might not be ashamed to point you out as his friend.’ (from ‘The Little Book of Catherine of Dublin’)

Arrangements for the end of the year.

- The End-of-Year Liturgy and Awards will occur on Tuesday 15th December in our Hall. All parents are welcome to attend.
- Activities have been planned for Monday, Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday and Thursday. Students have been signing up for these over the last week and the program is diverse and interesting. A big thanks to Mr Isaac Day, who is co-ordinating and planning this.

Student Leadership Team. All elections are completed and the team is composed of the following: Captains: Damian Ashby and Chrisma Shaji. Vice-Captains are Clancy McGregor and Isabella Davis. Ministry Leaders are James Bertalli and Lucy Howard. House Captains are Ruby Harrigan and Flynn Hodgson (Champagnat): Grace Thorley and Jack Burton (McCarthy): Lucy Bindon and Mathew O’Keefe (Mercy): Tianhnee Cropper and Toby Redwood (Tracey). In addition, we have from Year 11, Cassie Elward, Molly Hargans, Daniel Norton and Samuel Young and from Year 10, Aaron Ashby, Skye Blake, Gabrielle Harley and Luke Solomon. Congratulations to all the successful candidates and thanks to the many other students who had the courage to stand for election. Student voice is an important part of our College.

Whooping Cough. Please be aware of the symptoms for this illness, because a student in the school has been diagnosed recently. Details are available at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/whoopingcough/index.asp

Excursions and Events. Busy Times! The Year 5 Introduction Day was a great success and students seemed to enjoy themselves. The Year 10 Work Experience students have been out this week. This is always a valuable exercise. Thanks to Mr Paton for the organisation. Year 11 students attended the RRISK day in Coffs Harbour, which targets risk-taking behaviour and how to manage it. Some Year 8 students attended Festa Christi last week accompanied by some Year 11 students and Mr Isaac Day. A Science enrichment day saw many students engaged in constructing catapults, bridges and assorted other tasks. Thanks Ms Savell and Science teachers. The busy times continue next week with a Student Leadership day as well as a House Reward day for Mercy House, who won the House Points competition through their efforts and participation in not only sports carnivals, but through cultural activities, merit certificates and other class-related activities.

Continued over Page
Many Year 11 students will travel to Queensland next week and sporting trips have continued over the past weeks. All these events (and I have listed only some) enrich the lives and experiences of our students but they only occur because staff put themselves out and go the ‘extra mile’. Thank you to the many staff involved not only in the events – but also by covering classes back at school.

Congratulations to Jennifer McGrath who just won a $600 scholarship from the Clarence Valley Conservatorium.

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? Time is running out! 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 mccgrafjl@ism.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.

Leon Walsh
Principal

CAREERS

Eighteen students from McAuley College will be joining other north coast High Schools from Nambucca Heads to Grafton as part of the Coffs / Clarence Careers Advisers Association tour of Queensland universities next Thursday. The students will get a full overview of university life during the two day tour. This is a great opportunity for the students as they begin to select their career pathway. The university tour will include Bond University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Qld, Griffith University, Union College and the Gold Coast campus of Southern Cross University.

Rod Paton, Careers Adviser

Induna Sports Gala Day

Last Wednesday a group of senior boys travelled to ACMENA Juvenile Justice Centre to participate in a sports gala day. McAuley played the three units of Orara, Clarence and Jacca in Oz tag, cricket and a challenging obstacle course. It was obvious throughout the day that the boys from ACMENA were fit and gave us a great challenge in all sports. The day was eye opening and gave us an insight into the youth justice system for juveniles who have made the wrong decisions in life. Thank you to Mr Bancroft for organising the day and to Mr Nipperess and Mr Speed for taking us.

Mathew Okeefe

In the last fortnight students have been completing assessments, continuing to engage in learning as well as participating in various events, many of which are highlighted in this newsletter. Such events included the Year 11 RRISK day, Year 8 & 9 Science Enrichment day, Year 10 work experience, Year 11 boys visit to Induna for a Gala Day, Year 5 Introduction day, Year 8 Catch the Wave - Introduction to CSYMA, Year 8 Festa Christi. Thankyou to all the students who have made these curriculum and extracurricular events so successful and to the staff who organise and supervise these events.

Week 9 & 10 Events

- Opening of the Mercy Reflection Garden - Monday 30 November
- Mercy House Reward Day Tuesday 1st December
- Year 11 Queensland Uni Tour 3rd & 4th December
- Farewell to Leon Walsh - 5.30 7th December
- Leadership Day for 2015 Student Leaders - Monday 7th December @ Mercy Centre
- Kairos Retreat - 8 - 11 December
- Christmas Liturgy and Prizegiving (7-11) Tuesday 15th December

End of Year Activities

A lot of interest has been shown in the activity days planned for the last week of term. Thankyou to Mr Day for his organisation of this event. There is a wide variety of activities for the students to select from and as stated in the activities letter, students are asked to select appropriate activities in consultation with their parents. Also stated in the letter is the expectation for all students to attend the end of year awards ceremony on Tuesday 15th December. Students on Stage 2 and 3 of the Behaviour Management policy may not be able to participate in certain activities. This will be determined closer to the date.

Christmas Celebration and Prizegiving

Students receiving awards will be notified in Week Ten and a practice time will be arranged. Our Student Leadership Team for 2016 will be inducted and presented with their leader badge on this day. I encourage all parents to attend this final celebration of the school year.

Parenting Support

Parents (and teachers) often need support. I subscribe to the following newsletters and twitter feeds and find they often have helpful and affirming information. From these website addresses you can link into their newsletters, twitter feeds and facebook page. I encourage you to spend a few minutes having a look at these resources:

Reminder - Farewell to Mr Leon Walsh

As many of you know our Principal, Mr Leon Walsh, is retiring at the end of the year. We would like to invite Staff, Parents, Carers and supporters of the McAuley Catholic College community to a farewell for Leon on Monday 7th December 2015 at 5.30pm in the College Grounds. The evening will be a casual gathering where the Year 11 Hospitality class will be catering with nibbles / finger food. Drinks will be available. We look forward to seeing many of you here to thank and farewell Leon. Please see the attached invitation for more details.

Kate Thomson, Deputy Principal

STELLAR - University Of New England Visit

The STELLAR Program is an initiative of the Clarence Valley Education Forum. Its main focus is to encourage students to seek higher education. Fifty Year 9 students attended an overnight camp at UNE. It was perfect spring weather in Armidale and the University looked fantastic with its many buildings and beautiful gardens. The STELLAR crew were all fantastic, helping us out at every point and opportunity. We were divided into 4 groups and each group was given a bag that contained a coloured cap that we wore for the few days. Our first lecture, which was given by ex-student Zoe James, highlighted what UNE has to offer. She also discussed the many scholarships the University has. Then it was time for some hands on activities, the groups experienced Drama, Law, Nursing, Zoology and Pharmacy. We then travelled to St Albert’s College for our accommodation. After a great dinner in the College dining room we headed to Sport UNE where we chose one of four activities including swimming with an obstacle course, cycling, indoor sports and rock climbing. Overall it was a great few days. Thanks to the teachers, Mr Bellamy, Mr Humphries, Ms McHugh and Mrs McLennan for accompanying us, the STELLAR crew and the staff of UNE who ran the activities.

Aaron Ashby

Enrichment News

Science and Engineering Workshop

Last week Candice Savell ran an enrichment program for Science and Engineering. This program involved forty students from Years 8 and 9. The day began with local engineers, Col Solomon and Doug Wray giving a talk on Engineering. The students found their input very interesting and thank you to Mr Solomon and Mr Wray for so generously donating their expertise and time. Then the students worked in groups of four or five to complete different design and engineering challenges. The tasks included: bridge constructions, catapults, mini flying fox and tower constructions. The tasks required analytical thinking, physics, scientific knowledge, physical hands on creating and team work skills to collaborate on a design brief. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day and made some very effective constructions.

The winning teams were, groups four and nine, Emily Gough, Samuel Page, Mary Irwin, Braidy Willis, Abe Herbert, Fiona Meier, Kelsey Burt and Shianne Broderick. Each winner will receive a prize.

Maria Rouse

Catch the Wave

Last Tuesday, Year 8 participated in the Catch the Wave program. This initiative was designed to give students a Youth Ministry experience similar to the CSYMA course. The theme for the day was “God’s unconditional love for all of us”. Year 8 students responded well to the opportunity and were engaged with the themes presented to them. The Catch the Wave program was run by current CSYMA and Senior Youth Ministry Team members, and I particularly thank them for their effort and enthusiasm in facilitating the program.

From this experience, Year 8 have been given the opportunity to apply for the CSYMA class for 2016 and we have had an overwhelming response of applicants.

Nikita Robinson
Last week we held the Premiers Reading Challenge Party and celebrated the 15 students who completed it in 2015. Certificates were awarded to Sally Atkin, Savannah Connolly, Jessica Hyde, Mary Irwin, Taylar McPherson, Fiona-Maria Meier, Eva Miller, Sarah Moloney, Aishwarya Palani, Matthew Parkin, Morgen Parkin, Chrislyn Shaji and Rachel Sloan. An extra special mention goes to Samuel Page and Mackenzie Trivett who will receive the Premiers Reading Medal for the outstanding effort of completing the challenge a total of ten times. Many thanks to Mrs Julie Power who has organised Premiers Reading in 2015.

Mark Bellamy

BERG SHIELD CRICKET
Wednesday, 7th November McAuley Catholic College competed in the Berg Shield event held at Trinity Lismore. The bowling was kept tight by McAuley and gave us many opportunities which we capitalized on. We had drinks after 15 overs and held Trinity with 3 wickets down for only 39 runs. After the break some bad bowling gave Trinity a chance with 24 runs being hit in 2 overs. With this happening we stayed calm and got the breakthrough of their best batter who was caught magnificently by Zac Young at mid-off. The wickets fell quickly but the runs also climbed dramatically and we were glad when Abe Herbert smashed through the tail with three wickets in the one over. At lunch we were chasing 137 runs. We quickly got padded up and headed out to bat. Some great bowling got the better of the top Order with Aaron Ashby out for a duck and let’s just say we were stunned when Noah Green left one that rocketed through and took out off stump, sending it cartwheeling. Efforts from Bailey Sinclair, Nick Lawson and Eli Fahey made us look better on paper giving us a total of 97. I would like to thank Mr Hand for driving us to the game and for all his preparation beforehand. Even with the loss we all enjoyed ourselves and made the most of a good experience.

Aaron Ashby

Happy Birthday
Noah Stanmore, Ellie Tapping, Sally Atkin, Grace Clark, Ashlee Stevens, Zahli Stevens, Ellen McCarthy, Chrisma Shaji, Quinnlan Boyce, Amelia Tanner, Sebastian Knox, Benjamin Lambert, Damien Gill, Charli Bingham, Gabrielle Harley, Billy Sampson, Jack Bellamy, Brooke McHutchison.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Mon 30 J. Arnott
December
Tue 1 J. Hatgis, L. Lougher
Wed 2 HELP NEEDED
Thu 3 B. Walker
Fri 4 A. Geary
Mon 7 J. Arnott
Tue 8 J. Hatgis, L. Lougher
Wed 9 S. Parker
Thu 10 HELP NEEDED
Fri 11 K. Barnett
Mon 14 HELP NEEDED
Tue 15 J. Hatgis, L. Lougher
Wed 16 HELP NEEDED

DATES TO REMEMBER
Mon23/Fri27 Year 10 Work Experience
Mon 30/Tue1 Year 10 AMOW
December
Tue 1 Mercy House Reward Day
Thu 3Fri4 ACYF
Tue 8/Fri11 Kairos Retreat
Mon14/Wed16 Activities Week
Tue 15 Christmas Liturgy and Prizegiving 9.30am
Wed 16 HSC Results
Year 12 BBQ lunch 1pm

MASS TIMES
St. Mary’s - Grafton
Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday Mass 8am
St. Patrick’s - South Grafton
Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday Mass 9.30am
Cowper
Sunday 8am Mass
Copmanhurst
First and third Sunday of the month at 10am
**Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Alert  26/11/2015**

There has been a recent confirmed case of whooping cough (pertussis) in a member of the McAuley Catholic College community at Grafton.

Whooping cough caught at school can spread to any other members at home. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and is worse at night. The infection may also occur in fully-vaccinated children.

**What should people sick with pertussis do?**

Pertussis is readily spread from an infected person to others by coughing and sneezing. If left untreated, it can be spread for up to three (3) weeks after the start of the infected person’s cough.

Do not attend work, school or a childcare facility if you or any household members:

- Have a cough as described above. Please see your doctor.
- Are being tested for whooping cough by your doctor and waiting for test results.
- Are being treated with antibiotics for whooping cough for at least five (5) days after starting the medicine

**Keep coughing children away from babies.**

Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades. If your school-aged child has younger siblings, it’s a good idea to check that they are up to date with their vaccines.

For further advice, please call the Public Health Unit 1300 066 055 or NSW Health website


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