4th March 2016

Dear Parents and all in the McAuley Community,

The love of a Parent

“My son, the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’” (Lk 15: 31-31).

This week as part of our Staff Lenten reflection we listened to one of the most well-known and loved gospel stories commonly referred to as The Prodigal or Lost Son. The power of the imagery is captured in the beauty of Rembrandt’s baroque 17th century painting. Witness the embrace of the father and the ragged clothes of the son who has lost his way in life.

The message is simple and timeless, and still so relevant for family in today’s world where the core values of love, relationship, mercy and forgiveness are constantly tested. The image of the wide embrace of the Father of course represents the love God has us for each of us. Each day here I witness the awesome power as well as the challenges of this wonderfully authentic Catholic community.

Let’s pray that we keep working together to build the Kingdom here at McAuley Catholic College.
The McAuley Community

The past fortnight has been a busy few weeks at McAuley representing College life and Community with the full array of events, visitors to the College, new parent nights, excursions, swimming carnivals, reflection days, liturgies, dances and of course the odd bit of formal classroom learning!!

One of the great privileges I am finding in my first month as the Principal of this proud school is that I get to experience so many events first hand. As we move in Catholic Schools Week Celebrations next week our students represent great hope for our world.

I BELONG
YOU BELONG
WE BELONG

With Blessings for the fortnight ahead

Mark O’Farrell

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

McAULEY CATHOLIC COLLEGE
OPEN EVENING 2016
TUESDAY 22 MARCH
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Meet the Principal - 5.45pm and 6.30pm
ALL WELCOME

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

We are half way through the term and as you can see it is a very busy time.

**Year 12 Exams** start Monday 14th March (week 8). Students have a timetable and should be very aware of the dates and times of their exams. Students do not need to be at school if they do not have an exam. However, they are welcome to stay at school to study and access their teachers for assistance. We wish our Year 12 students all the best in these half yearly exams and to use them as a learning experience. **Year 12 reports** will be sent out at the end of the term and **parent teacher student interviews** are scheduled for week 2 term 2 - Tuesday 3rd May.

**Progress reports** for students from years 7 - 11 are currently being completed. These intend to give parents a brief overview of their child’s progress in each subject across the areas of behaviour, work practice, organisation and whether an interview is required. Follow up to these reports will be in the form of Parent - Teacher interviews scheduled for Tuesday 29th March. The online booking facility is explained in a letter accompanying the report. I look forward to seeing many of you on this night.

**General permission notes**
These important notes are now overdue. Please return to these to the office for processing. Not only does this provide permission for your child to attend excursions in the local area, it is an opportunity to update important information such as contact details, medical conditions etc.

**College Leaders Retreat - Staff Spirituality Day**

Our College Retreat Program incorporates all students and staff and it is a program and experience that we take pride in and is an important part of Catholic schooling. Members of the College Leadership attended a retreat day this week where we received instruction and guidance from Fr Aloysious Mowe SJ, a Jesuit priest originally from Malaysia who has lived in many places across the globe and is now based in Sydney. From this experience the College Leadership Team will lead the staff at our reflection day on Thursday 24th March - Holy Thursday. Please note this is a pupil free day and the school will not be open.
UNI ROADSHOW

Fourteen Year 12 took the opportunity to attend the University Roadshow at South Grafton High School last week. Representatives from Charles Sturt, Southern Cross and the University of New England were in attendance. The students were given information regarding university courses, university life, accommodation, applying for scholarships and the costs involved for university life. They were also made aware of the different campuses the universities offer and their specialised courses. Charles Sturt, for example, has a campus in Port Macquarie that now offers Bachelor of Applied Science (Outdoor Recreation and Ecotourism).

RSA / RCG

Year 11 and 12 students are constantly reminded about the opportunity to complete Responsible Service of Alcohol and/or A Responsible Conduct of Gambling Qualifications while attending school. These are recommended as many students will move into the hospitality industry whilst attending Uni while many will begin their career pathway in hospitality. Details can be found on the Careers noticeboard.

WHITE CARD

Many Year 10 students have already begun to organise their Work Experience for Term 4. The date for this is the 28th November until the 2nd December, 2016. Students who are planning to work in the construction industry are required to have a General Construction Induction Training Card which is also known as a White Card. Courses are offered throughout the year and students are encouraged to get in early to complete it. Details are available on the Careers noticeboard.

Mr Paton
Careers Adviser

LIBRARY NEWS

In Week 3 the Year 7 classes participated in a scavenger hunt and learnt about what the Mercy Library has to offer. Congratulations to Bella Pesl, Takara Smith and Holly Redman who had 100% correct answers.

We also had a riddle competition: How many librarians does it take to change a light bulb? The winners were Daniel Tasker, “None because maintenance does it.” Lucas Westbury, “Only one because they look up how to do it in a book” and Bella Pesl, “None, because books light up our world.”

The winners each received a $5.00 canteen voucher.

Mark Bellamy
Belonging Day
The final event in our transition to high school culminated on Tuesday 23rd February with the Year 7 Belonging Day. After receiving our McAuley Catholic College badges we traveled to the original site where the Sisters of Mercy began their mission in Grafton so we could better understand our school traditions and history.

We began with a beautiful liturgy that was celebrated in St. Mary’s Church. Members of Year 7 brought samples of water from the many rivers and the beach side areas. Mr Day led the students in pouring the water into a single vessel, uniting us as one group.

This was followed by the presentation of three workshops. Mr Day gave students a guided tour of the features of St. Mary’s Church. Mrs Bindon explained the history of the Sisters of Mercy through an activity viewing the bronzes in the Mercy Garden. Mrs Cureton gave us a personal tour of the evolution of the convent and schools and shared her story- we even saw the class in which she attended Kindergarten!

Afterwards, we went to Kirchner Park where the student leaders organised games to help us get to know one another better and cooked a very welcomed lunch. The game highlight was definitely the Caterpillar Race and we have evidence that all four Houses are capable of dodgy tactics.

We would like to thank our presenters Mrs Cureton, Mrs Bindon and Mr Day. Also, Mrs Joe, our school counsellor Mrs Jo Kelly and our hardworking team of student leaders. A special thanks must go to our new Assistant Principal (Mission) Mrs Warby who organised this day to make real and relevant the content Year 7 are learning in Religious Education.

The day was topped off by the Parent Evening. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet new parents and build community.

Other Year 7 News
Parents are reminded that immunisation forms are now due to the office. Please contact the school if these have been misplaced.

It was great to see so many Year 7 students attend their first school social. They really got into the Grafton spirit with their fun and imaginative fancy dress costumes.

Marita Cummins
Year 7 Coordinator

CLARENCE VALLEY PARISH EASTER CEREMONIES 2016

MONDAY 21ST MARCH
7.00PM CHRISM MASS AT ST. CARTHAGES CATHEDRAL LISMORE

THURSDAY 24TH MARCH
7.00PM HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER AT ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH SOUTH GRAFTON

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH
3.00PM GOOD FRIDAY – SOLEMN LITURGICAL ACTION OF THE CROSS
THE PASSION AND HOLY COMMUNION AT ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH SOUTH GRAFTON

SATURDAY 26TH MARCH
7.30PM EASTER VIGIL HOLY SATURDAY AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH GRAFTON

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH – EASTER SUNDAY
8.00AM MASS AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH GRAFTON
8.00AM MASS AT MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH COWPER
9.30AM MASS AT ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH SOUTH GRAFTON
10.00AM MASS AT ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS COPMANHURST
FROM THE A.P. MISSION KATHY WARBY

LEAD
March 10th and 11th will see LEAD take place here at McAuley Catholic College in the Hall. All Senior Youth Ministry students have been invited and permission notes and money should have been returned by now. This is an exciting program to attend and allows for faith formation and renewal. Emmanuel worship will headline the evening rally on Thursday 10th March. The rally, running from 7-9.30pm will feature worship, prayer, testimony and keynote speakers. All members of the McAuley College and Clarence Valley Parish communities are invited to join the students for this unique opportunity.

Emmanuel Worship from Australia are emerging as a leading voice of contemporary Catholic music. House-band for the annual IGNITE Conference and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2015, Emmanuel worship's powerful music is impacting schools, churches and youth ministries around the world. If you would like to attend the rally please come along to the College hall on the evening of the 10th March at 7pm. This is a real opportunity for student discipleship formation to promote school evangelisation and catechesis in ways that engage the passion, imagination, and commitment of students to live as Christian disciples within the Catholic community.

Parish Mass
Thank you to all families who gathered to celebrate our first Parish Youth and Family Mass for the year last Sunday. This was a great celebration of our Catholic Identity which supports our parish school to be an animated, effective centre of Catholic identity, mission and the New Evangelisation by actively engaging and aligning parents, staff, and students. We welcome all families to be present at these masses and encourage and support our students to be a part of the Parish Youth Group.

A BBQ or social event for the youth of the Parish will take place after these masses. More information prior to the next mass will be advertised to families through the College newsletter.

Catholic Schools Week
This year from 6 - 12 March 2016 we will join with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW). The theme for CSW 2016 is ‘I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.’ which aligns with the Church’s mission to support refugees and asylum seekers at this a time in our world where vast numbers of people are fleeing war and poverty. The theme also ties in with the global Catholic Church celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which focuses on pardon, strength and love. Pope Francis sees the Year of Mercy as an opportunity for forgiveness and reconciliation, and is calling on all Catholic communities to extend mercy to those in need, particularly refugees. Catholic Schools Week is also about forging and strengthening relationships between everyone who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing our activities and actions. During Catholic Schools Week, we take the opportunity to highlight not only the best of what we do, but also what happens in our schools every day. For that reason, we invite you and your family to join us at the LEAD rally on Thursday night to celebrate with our school and parish community during Catholic Schools Week 2016. You may like to take the opportunity to join us at our assembly on Tuesday morning or attend Mass Wednesday morning with two Year 8 classes (8.3 and 8.4). Parents are most welcome to attend.

Our school will celebrate with the other Catholic primary schools in the Clarence at a later date. Due to the LEAD conference scheduled that week it is too difficult to plan a Catholic Schools gathering. This will be an ideal opportunity to support our Catholic community within the Clarence Valley and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

BBQ Trailer
The Senior students and staff provide a free BBQ every Friday from 12pm to people in need in the grounds of the New School of Arts in South Grafton. This BBQ is an example of service to our local community upholding the Catholic Social Justice Teachings of Preferential Options for the Poor. As part of our Religious Education program and in line with our Mercy values we teach students that caring for the poor is everyone’s responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God’s eyes. If you would like to donate or help out in any way to support this program please contact Kathy Warby at the College.

Year 7 Transitus Retreat
Transitus is a new retreat for Year 7 students to grow in their discipleship of Jesus Christ, membership of His Church and to strengthen their transition into Catholic Secondary School. The word transitus was chosen because it is the Latin word for passage, crossing, movement over, transition, transit. The retreat will be a chance to bring students together to meet like-minded peers and to celebrate with other young people who want to grow and be supported in their Christian faith. The activities will be a mixture of large and small sharing groups as well as celebrating the Eucharist together. The program has been geared to meet the needs of these Year 7 students. The gathering will be an overnight experience that will allow students to build relationships with other students from throughout the Diocese as well as a chance for students to talk and share about their faith journey.

What: Transitus – a youth retreat for Year 7 students from every Parish school in the Southern Region of the Diocese.
When: Thursday 31 April – Friday 1 March 2016
Where: Valla Beach Holiday Park [omit one],
Cost: Nil. All transport, food and accommodation expenses will be met by the Catholic Schools Office.
This retreat is for students who:
• Regularly attend Mass
• Are involved in some other form of Church involvement either at school or in the parish
• who show initiative, common sense and maturity
• and are seeking to grow in these areas

We can only offer a limited number of places. Any student who would like to be considered is asked to complete the Student Application Form provided by Mrs Warby, Mrs Cummins or available at the Front Office. Attention should be given to the stated selection criteria. Nominations should be handed to the Front Office no later than Wednesday 9th March.
The 2016 Swimming Carnival was held on Friday, 19th February. It was a very good day with participation much improved from previous years. The following people need to be congratulated for becoming Age Champions. U13 Annabel Bindon and Matthew Parkin. U14 Gracie Pitkin and Xavier Hodgson. U15 Morgen Parkin and Jordan Nash. U16 Taylor Sheehan and Abe Herbert, Opens Lucy Bindon and Wil Pitkin. The overall House points was again extremely close. Well done to Champagnat on 703 points, Tracey on 966 points, Mercy on 987 points.

Congratulations goes to the winners of the 2016 Swimming Carnival McCarthy House on 1021. It is great to see the House points so close, well done to all students on their participation throughout the day. I would also like to thank all staff for their excellent work on the day.

James Hand
Sport Coordinator
YEAR 7 IMMUNISATION DATES 2016

23rd March
Gardasil (HPV) Dose 1 to all students
Boostrix (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis)

25th May
Gardasil (HPV) Dose 2
Varicella (chicken pox)
Boostrix and HPV - catch ups if required

19th October
Gardasil (HPV) Dose 3
Boostrix, Varicella and HPV - catch ups if required

All parents will receive information packages and consent forms two weeks prior to commencement of the program.

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

CANTEN ROSTER

March
Mon 14  Help Needed
Tue 15  L. Lougher
Wed 16  S. Parker
Thu 17  Help Needed
Fri 18  K. Barnett
Mon 21  Help Needed
Tue 22  L. Lougher
Wed 23  Help Needed
Thu 24  B. walker
Fri 25  Public Holiday Good Friday

DATES TO REMEMBER

TUESDAY

ASSEMBLY

SPORT THURSDAY

March
Thur 10  Diocesan Swimming Carnival
CSYMA
Tue 22  College Open Night 5pm to 7pm
Wed 23  Immunisation Year 7
Thu 24  Staff Development Day Pupil Free
Fri 25  Good Friday
Mon 28  Easter Monday
Tue 29  Parent Teacher Interview

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL YAMBA

YOUTH MASS 2016

Fidelis

5PM MASS. FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. ST. MARY'S GRAFTON.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES FROM 6PM.

CHECK FACEBOOK PAGE FOR LATEST INFORMATION
FOOTY TIPS
Join the McAuley Catholic College Footy Tipping competition for your chance to win $400.
For a $25 entry fee, you can be in the chance to take home the huge winner's prize, or even $200 for second and $100 for third.
It’s so easy to enter: register on footytips.com.au search for our comp, MCC2016. Enter and use the password MCC2016 to submit.
NB: payment to be made by the end of term 1.
(College Mini Bus fundraiser)

Craig Nipperess
DADS are IMPORTANT

A group for fathers after separation

Are you:
- Separated from your children?
- Isolated with little or no support?
- Stressed by custody and family law issues?

You are not alone.

Dads are Important is a group for fathers to share their experiences, provide support, network and exchange information and get advice on issues such as parenting, relationship with ex-partner, coping with stress and well-being.

Starting March 14th

Where: 10 Kemp St, Grafton (Sunshine House)
When: 2nd Monday of each month – 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Cost: FREE (light refreshment also provided)

For enquiries or to register phone CRANES on 6642 7257
or email j Duffy@cran.es. org. au

Please note: This a support group and as such does not provide legal advice or advocacy