1st April 2016
Dear Parents and all in the McAuley Community,

Building a Great Wellbeing School at McAuley

Last week was a great celebration of life, learning and showcasing the McAuley Spirit to many current and future McAuley families at our annual Open Night. I spoke to many parents about this McAuley Spirit on the night. In essence the spirit is evidenced through the many happy faces and cheerful smiles on our students. Their happy positive spirit overwhelms you when you meet them.

As the new Principal it was an absolute delight to ‘show off’ the amazing learning facilities McAuley offers to its students. A gym, Performing Arts, Drama, Music, a Farm, Sporting ovals, state of the art Sports Science centre, Library, Science, TAS, Kitchens, outdoor Prayer Garden and much more. I meant many current and future McAuley families who were astonished at the amazing facilities that McAuley offers. Many on the night were taken on a quick tour, had a chance to grab a coffee and cake in our Hospitality kitchens or a light dinner in our canteen.

The most amazing part of our McAuley showcase though was our students. I believe they are our best ambassadors and I think they ‘sold’ our school to future students and families. One of the overwhelming comments on the night and afterwards to me was how impressive our Tour Guides and Senior Students were on the night. As I walk the yard most lunchtimes I am constantly amazed the genuine warmth and hospitality that many students display. It gives me great hope for the future of McAuley as I talk to these happy young men and women.
I will have an opportunity to publicly thank these awesome students at next week’s assembly.

**Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

One of the major themes I discussed with parents on the Open Night was our focus on Social and Emotional Wellbeing for McAuley students. This essentially means with increasing changes to structures of families in today’s society many students are coming into high school with great social and emotional needs. In Year 7 and 8 this becomes a priority to focus on the social development of our students. In Year 7 we take ‘Belonging’ as our theme. Research tells us the happier and more socially and emotionally developed our students are then the stronger their learning will be.

*Strong wellbeing programs equates to schools solidly focussed on learning.* We embrace this philosophy at McAuley and strive to make it a reality every day for our students. That is our goal and mission each day as you entrust your children to our care and an education at McAuley Catholic College.

With Blessings for the holidays, time with families and safe travels. Enjoy! School resumes for Term 2 on 26 April.

*Mark O’Farrell, College Principal*

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**CAREERS NEWS**

A reminder to parents, carers and students to visit our College website then go to Teaching and Learning, click Careers and that will take you to valuable links to assist with information on jobs, apprenticeships and universities.

Take note that The Australian Job Guide will not be published anymore but is available via The Good Universities Guide, which is one of our links.

*Rod Paton, Careers Advisor*
I hope the recent Easter break was a relaxing time for all families and that some time was spent reflecting on the meaning of Easter. The message of Easter was the focus of our Year 10 CSYMA class performance when they portrayed the Stations of the Cross along with contemporary statements for today’s world for the College community on Wednesday. As this term draws to an end I would like to thank all the students who have been doing the right thing and trying in all aspects of their schooling. So many of our students wear their uniform correctly, bring all their equipment, are respectful of others, and actively participate and engage in the learning opportunities here at McAuley.

Cross Country
Our Cross Country Carnival will be run on Thursday, 7th April. All students are expected to attend school on this day and participate in the event. This carnival contributes to the House Competition and participation points are a very important part of the competition.

ANZAC Day
Students are invited to participate in Marches across the Valley, including Grafton, South Grafton, Maclean, Yamba, Glenreagh and Woolgoolga. Students will be asked to indicate their availability next week before we break up for holidays. All students are encouraged to march on this day and need to be in full school uniform. Teachers at each march will record names of students in attendance and certificates will be issued at an assembly to acknowledge this community service.
Grafton March: Assemble at Market Square at 9.15
South Grafton March: Assemble at 10.55 am
Yamba March: Assemble at 9.15

Awards
All Students are encouraged to participate in the College Positive Awards Scheme. Students apply for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards — using the criteria outlined below. Applications for these awards are available from the office, and are to be handed to their House Leader when completed. These awards contribute to the House Points Competition. So as you are tidying up rooms at home, cleaning out school bags, you may find some merit awards. These are important and need to be kept to apply for these higher awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold.

MERIT CERTIFICATE: Students must have gained 5 Merit stamps (recorded in student diary). These are presented to Homeroom teacher. Merit certificates are presented at Assembly.
BRONZE AWARD: Students submit 3 Merit Certificates in 3 areas to their House Leader.
SILVER AWARD: Students submit 4 Merit Certificates in 4 areas and have evidence of some service to the College and/or wider community. (approx. 5 hours in 2 areas). Community service is recorded in the student diary on page 9. Students must present their application to their House Leader.
GOLD AWARD: Students submit 5 Merit Certificates in at least 5 areas and have evidence of significant service to the College and/or wider community. (approx. 10 hours in 3 areas). Community service is recorded in the student diary on page 9. Students must present their Application to their House Leader.

Term 2 Reminders
Uniform
It is important for families to get prepared for Term 2 over the holidays. As of next term all boys are to wear ties. The tie is a part of the winter uniform which is to be worn for Terms 2 and 3. As the weather will also start to cool, jumpers will be required. Please make sure you label all clothing as there is always uniform items in the lost property cupboard which is never claimed.
A reminder to those students intending to acquire facial piercings and extra ear piercings in the holidays, these will have to be removed when school resumes on 26th April. Please see student diary for further details on piercings.

Return to school date
All students and staff return to school for Term 2 on Tuesday 26th April

As Term 1 draws to a close , I wish you a safe and relaxing holiday.

Kate Thomson, Assistant Principal
Easter Liturgy

Last Wednesday during the Pastoral Care lesson our Year 10 CSYMA students presented a drama performance depicting the Stations of the Cross to the College community. The students worked hard over the weeks leading up to this with their teacher Mark Bellamy and the Youth Ministry Officers to provide a reverent and powerful liturgical presentation. The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations were re-enacted by the students in silent movement and as each station was displayed we recalled the specific event from Christ's last day. Well done to all involved in re telling the “Way of the Cross”. It was an important liturgy to prepare us for the season of Easter.

Project Compassion

Thank you to all students and families who supported the Project Compassion fundraising activity during Lent. This year $1035.00 was raised and this is a fantastic effort for all those who participated. This money will go towards supporting the many projects that Caritas are involved in. The theme for Project Compassion for 2016 was “Learning more, creating change”. As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrated the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Some examples of where the money could be spent are displayed in the image to the left.

Ignite Launch is taking place on Saturday 30 April 2016 at Movie World from 10am to 9pm. Students are encouraged to attend and will be at your own arrangement. Below is an extract from the Ignite Youth Website. For more information, visit http://new.igniteyouth.com/events/launch/

“Ignite Launch is a whole day riding the roller coasters at Movie World, followed up with a massive dance party and live concert – right in the middle of the theme park, after it closes! We promise you’ll walk away from this day totally inspired to change the world with Jesus’ love... We know that part sounds scary, but there ain’t no bible bashing happening here, no ones “judging you” or telling you live wrong, we seriously believe all God is asking us to do is live an exciting story. Sound weird? Then I guess you’ll fit right in – no commitment needed, we dare you to check it out.

Ignite Launch is all about getting your best mates together, making a stack of new friends and having a day you won’t forget about anytime soon. This is a drug and alcohol free event for high schoolers to 20-somethings! Huge prize giveaways and competitions throughout the whole day and night. “

Parish Youth Mass

Our next scheduled Parish Youth Mass is Sunday 24th April, 5pm at St Mary’s Church Grafton. Please come along and share in this celebration and be a part of our parish community.

Kathy Warby, A.P. Mission
After six months of work the Mercy Library staff have finished arranging all the fiction collection into genres (categories). Over 4,000 books have been reclassified into 16 genres including, humour, sport, fantasy, relationships, crime, and historical fiction. Every book had to be relabelled and changed in the electronic catalogue, shelves were dismantled and reconfigured, new signage made. It has been an enormous effort but well worth it.

The main reason we have made this change is to encourage reading in our College. Lots of current research suggests that all readers: poor, average and advanced, will not only read more but are also more likely to finish a novel if it is in a genre they like. Statistics in the Mercy Library support this with an increase of over 30% in general fiction borrowing since we made this change.

Many people have worked extremely hard including Julie Power, Pam Moran, Vicki Marsh, Jennifer Power-Geary, Terry Byrne and Lew Molloy, to make this project a reality and I am very grateful for their support.

During Term 1 junior students have had a library lesson in their English classes to explain the changes and encourage borrowing and reading.

Mark Bellamy, Librarian
FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICERS

As YMO’s, we were incredibly impressed by the way the Year 10 CSYMA students participated in Incitare. Engaging with the younger students and being a witness of the faith and hopefully a great learning experience for them. Working within retreats and other faith initiatives we understand the peer to peer interaction is very important and the prime place to achieve this is through small groups. From what we observed the students handled themselves appropriately and (from the reaction of the participants) did a great job.

Thanks to the CSYMA Year 10 Class this day was a great success!!!

Luke Solomon and Tim Wakewood, Youth Ministry Officers

INCITARE REPORT

After a short training session with Helen Hunter from the Lismore Catholic Schools Office, a selected group of Year 10 CSYMA students were chosen to participate in a Year 6 Reflection Day to help them discover their own unique relationship with Jesus. Incitare means “to stir”, was the main theme of the day. The aim of the day was for the children to stir up the flame inside themselves and others.

Early in the morning we were transported to the Grafton Community Centre where the event would be held. We managed to get in a short brief before the first students arrived ready for a spiritual journey. Local Year 6 students from within our parish came to take part in participating in ice-breakers with our YMO’s, to be involved in small groups led by Year 10 students and to listen to two personal testimonies from our own Luke Solomon and Katelyn Warby. The day was an overall success with every student happy and keen for more opportunities to participate in days similar to this. Harry Hayes Year 10

NEWS FROM ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Each week, as part of their maths Life Skills program, Year 9 students are withdrawn from their regular class to develop money skills. Students learn to count, subtract and add note and coin values, give change and budget their money. Their knowledge is applied to real life situations with the use of our school canteen. Also, each Thursday, these money skills are used to buy fruit and vegetables that are then boxed and sold to staff at McAuley Catholic College.

Meg Bindon, Additional Needs Co-ordinator

NAPLAN

In May 2016, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 7 and 9. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do and will be used to inform teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement late August.

NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 10-13 May.
Tuesday 10 May - Language Conventions and Writing
Wednesday 11 May - Reading
Thursday 12 May - Numeracy
Friday 13 May - catch up day for any student who may have missed tests.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

It is important for parents and carers to encourage their child to make a serious attempt for each NAPLAN test. Thank you in advance for your support.

Leanne McLennan, Leader of Literacy and Numeracy
Dear Parents and Carers

Year 10 Laptops

As you are aware, the Lenovo devices issued to our current Year 10 students under the Digital Education Revolution are at end of life.

Please be aware that these devices are no longer under warranty and have no Accidental Damage cover.

As stated at the initial meetings and in the Terms and Conditions of Borrowing a Netbook Computer Policy, the netbook remains the property of McAuley Catholic College. All software installed on the netbooks is also the property of McAuley Catholic College and is licenced to the College on a yearly basis.

In regards to the netbooks the College is pleased to offer students two options.

Option 1

At the end of Term 1 you may return your netbook to the College.

Option 2

For the payment of $50 you may keep the device. However, the licensed software will have to be removed by our technical staff and the device re-imaged to a Windows 7 Operating System.

Please be aware that if the device is not returned it will be remotely shut down and will become inoperable.

Parents who wish to keep using these devices as their student’s College laptop should contact the College to make arrangements to do so.

If you have already returned this device please disregard this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Lex Carruthers
Georgia Davies, Quinn Greedy, Braden Lewis, Jossy Hargans, Nicole Plint, Molly Hargans, Brock Woods.

YEAR 7 IMMUNISATION DATES 2016

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

Clarence Valley Parish 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

St. James
Yamba
Saturday 5.30pm

St. John's
Iluka
Sunday 5pm

St. Mary's
Maclean
Sunday 8.30am

2015 COLLEGE YEARBOOK
The 2015 College Year Book will soon be available, but it is not to late to order your copy. Please contact our college office ASAP to secure your copy.
Cost: $27 per Book

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
Join parents from around the Lismore Diocese for an opportunity not to be missed. The Lismore Catholic Schools Parent Assembly 2016 Conference will explore ways we as parents and educators can learn how to nourish, nurture and grow dynamic families and villages.

**Nourish Your Parenting Skills**

Lisa McInnes-Smith
Creating Families that Stick and Practical Parenting

Andrew Hughes
Building Resilience

**Nurture Your Faith Life**

Fr Elio Capra
The Year of Mercy

Danielle Lapte
Tackling Tough Topics: defending your faith without raising your voice

**Grow the Village**

Danielle Cronin and CSEO Staff
Families and Schools
Growing Stronger Together

All parents of children in our Catholic schools are warmly invited to attend the Lismore Parent Assembly Conference. There are still FREE registrations available (including accommodation for Friday and Saturday). Registrations for these fully funded tickets open at 12pm Friday April 1st. Be quick to register to ensure you receive FREE conference registration, accommodation and meals. To register click [HERE](https://goo.gl/b31rD1) go to: [https://goo.gl/b31rD1](https://goo.gl/b31rD1)
bands/performers wanted

live music from local bands

LIVE 'n' LOUD

thurs 14th april 2016
6 - 9pm
in your library

entry – gold coin donation
drug and alcohol free event

contact graftonlib@crl.nsw.gov.au or 66 410 101
for an opportunity to perform live'n'loud in the library
Raising Resilient Teenagers

FREE online program empowering parents to make sense of adolescence and parent their teenager more confidently.

We are inviting parents and their teenagers to take part in a trial of a new online parenting program designed to provide parents with strategies to manage the challenges of adolescence and stay connected with their teenager.

Who can take part?
Parents or guardians of at least one child aged 12 to 15 who live in Australia, are fluent in English, and have internet access.

What’s involved?
• As a parent, you will receive a brief, individually tailored parenting program that will give you feedback about your current parenting and strategies to reduce the risk of depression and anxiety in your teenager.
• You will be allocated to one of two groups, either receiving the program straight away, or in 3 months’ time.
• We will ask both you and your teenager (if they agree to take part) to complete some online surveys, at the beginning, and after 3 months. We may also ask you to complete similar surveys after 6 and 12 months.

In total over 12 months, your participation will take a few hours of yours and your child’s time. To say thank you, both you and your child will be reimbursed with e-gift vouchers.

How do I find out more?
To find out more, or to register to participate, please go to www.parentingstrategies.net/depression.brief.intervention
For further details, you can contact the researchers at med-parentingstrategies@monash.edu or on (03) 9905 1250.

MONASH University

This research has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee.
Lower Clarence Relay For Life

MASKED BALL

Saturday 7 May 2016 @ 6.30pm
Yamba Golf Club
Music “THE FORD BROTHERS”

Charity Auction, Raffles, Fun Prizes

- $60 per ticket
- Ticket includes dinner and live entertainment
- Individual tickets or book a table
- Tickets from Reception at Yamba Golf Club, Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm or phone 6646 2104 during office hours
- All tickets must be purchased by 27 April 2016
- 18+ event

Book Early