Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

As this term draws to a close, I look back on a very successful start to the 2015 school year and I particularly thank the staff for their generosity and commitment to the education of our students. I would also like to thank our parents and families of the Catherine McAuley community for your ongoing support of the work we undertake with your daughters.

The school liturgy for Holy Week, presented by Year 10 Drama students on Holy Thursday, reminded us of the centrality of the death of Jesus in our Catholic tradition and the promise of resurrection, to be celebrated on Easter Sunday. I thank Ms Leah Morrison, Ms Kate Picone and all the students who took part for their most reverent and prayerful presentation. As a Catholic community, let us seek to be people of peace in our lives, our families, the community and the world.

This week we have farewelled our Careers Advisor Mrs Judy Green. Mrs Green has worked tirelessly to ensure that Catherine McAuley students have been able to access a wide range of career information, training and opportunities. Her expertise and support will be greatly missed by both staff and students. We wish her all the best.

I wish all our families a holy and happy Easter as we celebrate the joy of Christ risen and present amongst us.

The Lord of the empty tomb
The conqueror of gloom
Come to us.

The lord in the garden walking
The lord to Mary talking
Come to us.

The Lord on the road to Emmaus
The Lord giving hope to Thomas
Come to us.

The Lord appearing on the shore
Giving us life for every more
Come to us.

Regards

Ms Laetitia Richmond
Principal
Last week The Mercy International Association welcomed the announcement by Pope Francis of the upcoming Holy Year, the Jubilee of Mercy (8th December 2015 - 20th November 2016). In his announcement Pope Francis spoke of his conviction ‘that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.’

The Jubilee announcement had been made on the second anniversary of the election of Pope Francis; the theme for this year has been taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, “God rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4). The opening of this next Jubilee will take place on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. This is of great significance, for it impels the Church to continue the work begun at Vatican II. During Term 1 students in Stages Five and Six have studied the Second Vatican Council and have learnt that the work begun by Saint Pope John XXIII continues with his successors.

During the Jubilee, the Sunday readings for Ordinary Time will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, the one referred to as “the evangelist of mercy”. There are many well-known parables of mercy presented in the Gospel of Luke: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the merciful father.

The Catholic tradition of the Holy Year began with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Boniface VIII had envisioned a Jubilee every century. From 1475 onwards, in order to allow each generation to experience at least one Holy Year, the ordinary Jubilee was to be celebrated every 25 years. However, an extraordinary Jubilee may be announced on the occasion of an event of particular importance. Until present, there have been 26 ordinary Holy Year celebrations, the last of which was the Jubilee of 2000. With the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis focuses attention upon the merciful God who invites all men and women to return to Him. The encounter with God inspires in one the virtue of mercy.

Mercy is a theme very dear to Pope Francis, as is expressed in the episcopal motto he had chosen: “miserando atque eligendo”. One possible translation of this motto is “With eyes of mercy”. On many occasions Pope Francis has spoken about Mercy. On 17th March 2013 the Holy Father stated “Feeling mercy, that this word changes everything. This is the best thing we can feel: it changes the world. A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just. We need to understand properly this mercy of God, this merciful Father who is so patient.”

Mercy was also central to Catherine’s McAuley’s life, it was the name she chose for her newly formed order of religious sisters. Despite many obstacles she did accept defeat, “Mercy, the principal path pointed out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following Him, has in all ages of the Church excited the faithful in a particular manner to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor, as in them they regarded the person of our divine Master…” As a school founded in the Mercy Tradition, we await this Jubilee year with great anticipation.

After our Lenten period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving we are looking forward to celebrating the Paschal Mystery. I would like to thank our School Chaplain Father Paul Cahill O. Carm for his generosity during Term 1. The students and staff of Catherine McAuley have truly appreciated the opportunity to attend a weekday Mass on Friday mornings. Also during Lent, Father Paul made himself available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was wonderful to see so many students receive this Sacrament as part of their preparation for Easter.

Jesus Christ faced betrayal, denial, institutional corruption, violence, stupidity, deep injustice and incomparable cruelty but he did not respond in kind. Scott Hahn writes “Jesus on the cross drowned all the sins of the world in an infinite ocean of mercy, and that is how he fought.” As we commence the Term 1 holidays may we remember that Jesus’ sacrifice was for the love of every person, for our salvation. May we proclaim with great joy, “Alleluia, alleluia, he is truly risen.”

Ms Genevieve Banks
Religious Education Coordinator

Thank You!

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Thank you for supporting programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need to establish sustainable food sources for life.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413
Easter Liturgy

The whole school gathered together today for an Easter liturgy presented by our Year 10 Drama students. The Senior Vocal Ensemble provided the music. It was a moving re-enactment of the Easter story.

Students and staff gather for the Easter Liturgy.

Palm Sunday Procession and Launch of WYD Krakow

A number of our school leaders, along with Ms Debbie Grigson, Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care/Administration) participated in the Palm Sunday Procession and Mass on Sunday 29th March which took place from Parramatta Town Hall to St Patrick’s Cathedral. Following the 6pm Mass Catholic Youth Parramatta held a BBQ dinner to celebrate the launch of the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta’s Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Krakow 2016.

McAuley students in the Palm Sunday Procession.
NAPLAN

All Year 7 and Year 9 parents should have received a letter about the NAPLAN Testing which is to be held from Tuesday 12th May to Thursday 14th May. The letter was a brief explanation of the testing. If you did not receive the letter please ask your daughter to see Mrs Lisa Richardson, Assistant Principals' Secretary, to obtain another copy. The NAPLAN timetable is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, 12th May</th>
<th>Wednesday, 13th May</th>
<th>Thursday, 14th May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Language Conventions  
  (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) | Reading | Numeracy  
  (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern; Measurement, Chance and Data; and Space) |
| Writing | | |

Year 12 Parent / Teacher Interviews

Year 12 completed their examinations last week and will be no doubt awaiting their feedback from teachers. Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews are on Wednesday 6th May, so please mark it on your calendar. It is an important event for Year 12 students and their parents as it is an opportunity to find out how your daughter is preparing for her HSC. Further information will be shared early in Term 2.

Year 7 – Bring Your Own Macbook

From the beginning of Term 2, Year 7 students will be able to bring their Mac laptop to school to support their learning. To use the device at school it must first be registered with the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The school's IT team will complete this process throughout the first week of Term 2. This will enable your daughter to access the school's wireless network with their device.

A mac induction 'bootcamp' has been scheduled for Term 2 Week 2 for all students in Year 7. This will support your daughter to make best use of her device at school and at home.

Staff Professional Development Day

Monday 20th April is a Staff Development Day. On this day staff will be participating in workshops to develop their ICT skills across a range of different Mac software and Google applications. In addition, the day will focus on strategies to support students as 21st Century learners.

Next term is a very busy time for students as it marks the end of the first semester with assessment tasks and exams. The first semester reports will also be issued towards the end of next term. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on the last two days in Term 2, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June. More details will be given in Term 2.

Ms Janet Cairncross
Assistant Principal  
(Learning & Teaching)

Pastoral Care

Year 11 Study Skills Seminar

This week Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services (www.enhanced-learning.net) ran a study skills session with Year 11, building on the work done with the girls last year.

The session focused on helping students identify improvements they could make to the way they study, in order to maximise their results in their final years of school. Time management was addressed in relation to dealing with distractions, managing time efficiently and using a diary as a planning tool. The session also gave advice on how to set up and maintain an effective home study environment and how to manage paper and digital resources for school. Finally, specific study skills were covered, including how to make brain-friendly study notes and how to find the active learning style(s) which best suit each individual. Students also were given advice on how to structure their study for their exams during the holiday period.

All secondary students at our school also have access to a great study skills website to help students develop their skills. Go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and enter the username: mcauley and the password: 189results and start improving your results today!
MAG Raises Awareness on Living Conditions in Fiji

This Lenten season the Mercy in Action student team (MAG) undertook an initiative in order to raise awareness about the hard living standards that are present in countries such as Fiji.

The team thought to create empathy by organising a campaign to students telling them that as of next term the canteen would be ‘changing its pricing’. The prices were extremely exaggerated with a chicken burger for example to cost $27. These prices, of course, are not in fact coming into effect but the campaign did result in students being shocked and speechless at seeing the prices, with some students questioning how they could possible afford lunch.

The students were relieved when they learnt that the new price structure was a campaign. Reflective messages were put up around the school afterwards asking students such questions as “How would you feel if you had to go hungry?” and “What would happen if you couldn’t feed yourself or your family?”

This Lenten season many families in poverty stricken countries have had to endure this reality. Our campaign was aimed to encourage students to think of these lifestyles and to be encouraged to raise even more money next year for Project Compassion.

Mirna Nasr
Leader of Social Justice

Social Media

Technology, especially if you aren’t up to speed, can be very deceptive. Your daughter may be accessing social media that you think may be innocent and just a simple way for them to keep in contact with their friends, but unfortunately, this isn’t always the case. To keep your children safe, it is best that you monitor their phone and other electronic devices. Look through their apps, texts and pictures. They may feel that you are invading their privacy, but you are keeping them safe.

I recommend the following link that highlights important information for parents regarding Instagram.

Winter Uniform

Please ensure your daughter wears the school uniform correctly in Term 2 and 3.

**Compulsory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Blazer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short sleeved junior school blouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School winter skirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opaque black stockings – not knee high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard black lace up school shoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School blazers must be worn to and from school in Terms 2 and 3. Jumpers without blazers are to be worn only within the school grounds.

**Optional**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School jumper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School black scarf</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sports Uniform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports cap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School tracksuit (Students may wear their shorts on hot days once they are at school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School sports socks or short white ankle socks with turnover tops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predominantly white joggers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students (Year 7-10) wear their sports uniform to and from school on Thursdays only. Jumpers are **not** to be worn with tracksuit pants.

The school uniform is available only from the School Uniform Shop. All articles of school clothing must be clearly labelled. Parents of students who do not wear the correct uniform will be contacted to either collect student or bring in the correct uniform.

Ms Debbie Grigson
Assistant Principal
(Pastoral Care/Administration)

Mercy in Action News

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Mirna Nasr
Leader of Social Justice
Nursing Home Visits

Our Mercy In Action (MAG) students have visited the Cabrini Nursing Home located in Westmead on two occasions this term. Assistant Leader of Social Justice, Annalise Awkar has written the below report:

MAG has been extremely fortunate this term to be able to spend a couple of Thursday afternoons at Cabrini Nursing home. We all thoroughly enjoyed conversing with the elderly over afternoon tea; as well as competing in feisty games of bingo. It has been mentioned by many residents that McAuley visiting is the highlight of their day. We are always delighted to visit the elderly and will continue to support our local community.

Social Justice News

Year 8 Mercedes Fundraising

On Tuesday 24th March our Homeroom, 8 Mercedes, put on a ‘Death by Chocolate’ stall to raise money for Project Compassion. Our Homeroom came up with the theme called ‘Fun ways to Fundraise’. We had a wide variety of mouth-watering chocolate delights to sell, just the right thing for Easter. The prices ranged from 50c to $2. On the day it was raining but that didn’t put us down. We sold out very quickly and raised lots of money for Cantas Australia. We counted the amount of money we raised and it came to a total of $320.

Everyone in our Homeroom contributed to our stall and without that contribution we wouldn’t have raised so much!! Thank you to Mrs Bashall, Mr Marks and Ms Richmond for letting us partake in this chocolate stall fundraiser.

Gursheen Chadha
Homeroom 8 Mercedes

Staff and Student News

ARTIST JASON WING VISITS YEAR 12 VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS

Our Year 12 Visual Arts students were fortunate to have artist Jason Wing come and spend the day with them on Monday this week as part of their case study of his artistic practice. Mr Wing is a Sydney-based artist who began as a street artist and has since expanded his practice to incorporate photo media, installation and painting.

The students have been learning about the artworks of Jason Wing and in particular his Chinese and Aboriginal background and how this impacts on his art making practices. Mr Wing spent the majority of the day running a workshop for the students were they had the opportunity to view many of his artworks and listen to him explain what they mean. Mr Wing is a multi-disciplinary artist who works in a number of different expressive forms. One of his better known pieces of public art, ‘In Between Two Worlds’, can be seen between Little Hay St and Hay St in Haymarket. The laneway between these two streets has been transformed by the addition of blue clouds and silver figures which at night time illuminate the lane with an otherworldly blue glow.

It is a great opportunity for the students to have an artist come and talk directly to them as it offers them direct access to the artist and their background and inspirations. This latest visit by a practicing artist follows on from an earlier visit to our Year 7 students by the well-known ceramic artist, Jenny Orchard, who ran a workshop for Year 7 who were studying her art practice.

Following the Year 12 workshop the Visual Arts Department organised a Professional Development session with Mr Wing for McAuley art teachers and other art teachers in the Diocese.

Term 1 Issue 5, 2nd April 2015
Page 6
AROUND THE CLASSROOMS . . .

Year 8 Technology Mandatory students with Mrs Dorothy Spiteri were cooking Mexican burritos this week during class as part of their 'Tasty Ways Around the World' unit. Each fortnight the students have been cooking a dish from a different part of the world.

During the year the Year 8 Technology Mandatory students will rotate between a cooking unit, a sewing unit and a timber unit.

Class of 2014 – Where Are They Now?

The overwhelming majority of our Year 12 students will be offered a place in a university course and the Class of 2014 was no different. Mrs Judy Green, Careers Adviser, has spent some time contacting our Year 12 students from last year to ask them what their future plans are in regards to study.

For our Class of 2014 students it appears that a career in a science or health field is the most popular choice, followed by something in the commerce or business area. 43 of our students have been offered a university placement in the science field ranging from Medical Science to Veterinary Science to Psychology. Nursing and Midwifery were popular with 11 students starting a university Nursing degree and 2 students opting for a Nursing TAFE course. Psychology, Criminology and Forensic Science are degrees which 10 of our students have started.

Commerce and Business degrees were the other popular choice with 17 of our students choosing to study in these areas. Engineering is a degree which 5 of our students have chosen as was Law. The 3rd most popular choice after something in the Science or Medical field or Commerce/Business was Education with 13 students starting a university course in the area of Education.

Besides the most popular and perhaps more common choices there were also students who have been offered university places in courses as diverse as Construction Management, Interior Design, Visual Communications and Tourism Management.

We wish our Class of 2014 all the best with their future studies.
Congratulations to our Drama Club students for their wonderful performance this week of the play ‘Selfie’.

‘Selfie’, written by Bradley Hayward, centres on a group of senior students and the problems they face as they prepare for the future. Facing bullies, parents, pressure, sickness and their own self-judgment the characters in the play search for ways to stand out. As the students document their year, one click at a time, they come to realise life is not about what other people see – it’s about the pictures they have of themselves.

Our Drama Club students have been rehearsing all Term under the direction of Year 12 students Amy Romanous and Sivani Yaddanapudi, who directed the performance, and Drama teachers Mrs Newman, Miss Morrison and Mrs Cheryl Pietrantonio.

**Directors**
Amy Romanous  
Sivani Yaddanapudi

**Cast**
Nicole Jo-Beth Elias  
Zack Heather Tleige  
Laura Chaya Ocampo  
Kaitlin Meg Dawkins  
Tyler Rachael Prain  
Jessie Mia O’Reilly  
Morgan Daniella Franklin  
Sam Naomi Borg  
Natalie Sereena Caro  
Understudy Toni Clenton

**Backstage**
Stage Manager Elyssa Vickers  
Sound Operator Alannah Ayre  
IT and Lighting Pragaa Ganesh  
Marketing Avni Pawer and Georgia Tovai  
Poster/Set Design Ysabel Hollero and Aiswarya Rajeev  
Props Patricia Teano and Emma Romanous  
Costume Kayla and Inpana Jerome

**Special Thanks to Staff**
Ms Elizabeth Newman  
Miss Leah Morrison  
Mrs Cheryl Pietrantonio  
Ms Kate Picone  
Ms Karin Smith  
Ms Debbie Grigson  
Mr Brian Hackney
Our Year 7 students attended their Year 7 Camp on Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th March which was held at Vision Valley, Arcadia. The students had the opportunity to participate in a number of outdoor activities and enjoyed the chance to challenge themselves whilst also making lots of new friends. Some comments from the Year 7 students are below:

Wow! Camp was amazing! We got to do many activities. We were also challenged to conquer our fears! The flying fox and gliding possum were my favourite as we were taken up high into the air. Despite the heavy harnesses and long waits, those activities were the best! The only thing I didn’t like was Roast, the resident duck at the campsite. It kept interrupting our recess and afternoon tea thinking we were going to feed it. I think camp was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I may never get to experience that again - but if I do, I will be very happy! **Tracyla Chehade**

Camp at Vision Valley was a thrilling experience. I enjoyed all of the activities. My favourite activity was archery. It was fun as I learnt how to hold a bow and use it. I also met many new friends. I think camp was a great outdoor experience. I hope we go camping again. **Rita Haddad**

The Year 7 camp was amazing. It was a place where we met new friends and could be a little adventurous. We were able to go on the zip line, flying fox, waterslide and much more. The zip line was my favourite. It was an awesome experience and I hope we can go there again!! **Sheryl Jacob**

I loved camp. It was so exciting and challenging. Everyone participated in five activities over the two days. My favourite activity was the flying fox, which was a long cable that stretched out over trees, bushes, boulders and a creek. We were harnessed and attached to it. Then we jumped off a platform and went sailing down to the other end. There were many activities like this that everyone enjoyed. We also learnt the skills of team building and archery. I enjoyed camp as we challenged ourselves to be out of our comfort zone and make new friends. Everyone loved this experience and I can’t wait until my next one! **Tara Coghlan**
Vigoro National Championships

Congratulations to our four McAuley students who represented NSW in the Vigoro National Championships as part of the NSW Under 18 Vigoro Team. This event was held in Queensland from 22nd - 28th March and the NSW Under 18 Team finished as runners up to the Queensland side.

Our McAuley students played exceptionally well with the President of the QLD Vigoro Association approaching them to say how well they all played and how pleased she was that Catherine McAuley is carrying on the sport of vigoro. Pragaa Ganesh (Year 11), was awarded the Best Fielder Award for the tournament following her nine catches in the five games played. Congratulations to our four students who were part of the team: Rylee Thew (Year 8), Sara Hodge (Year 8), Vanessa Abdo (Year 9) and Pragaa Ganesh (Year 11).

The NSW Vigoro Board have passed on their thanks to Catherine McAuley for allowing these four students to attend the event and for being involved in the sport. Without our four students a NSW junior team may have not been able to compete in the event.

Year 11 Student Competes at Australian Junior Athletic Championships

Congratulations to Year 11 student Emily, who competed on Saturday 14th March at the Australian Junior Athletic Championships at Sydney Olympic Park. Emily came 4th in the discus event with her throw of 49.25m in the Open Implement Weight Division. She was the youngest person to make it into the top 8.

PDSSSC Touch Football Gala Day

On Wednesday 18th March, students from Years 7-10 represented Catherine McAuley at the PDSSSC Touch Football Gala Day in Werrington.

The gala day provides opportunities for students to play against other teams in the Parramatta Diocese and the possibility to be selected into the representative side to play in the CCC Tournament in Port Macquarie. Our team played against six other schools in a round robin competition. Despite the excessive heat, McAuley came away with 4 wins and 2 losses. Overall, we came 2nd place in our pool. A wonderful effort by all girls involved.

A big thank you to Miss Sharon Brincat and Mrs Maria Ekde in assisting with team selection and organisation.
MCCS Volleyball
Well done to both the Junior and Senior MSSC Volleyball Team who made it through to the semi-finals and the Junior Team who then went on to win the grand final.

The Senior Team were beaten by Bethlehem College, Ashfield in three sets during the semi-final while the Junior Team defeated Trinity College, Auburn in two sets. The Juniors then played in the grand final against Bethlehem and won in two sets.

Former Student to Play for Hockeyroos
Previously we have reported on Kate Hanna, Class of 2014, who recently was awarded a scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport for hockey. Kate today (Thursday 2nd April) will make her debut for the Hockeyroos in a game against China. She will also play again over the weekend and next week. All these games will be held at the Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre, Homebush.

## Noticeboard

### Staff Professional Development Day

**Monday 20 April**

**PUPIL FREE DAY**

**STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 21ST APRIL**

Students to return in their winter uniform

### Post Separation Recovery Program

**Springwood**

CCSS Solo Parent Services is offering its seven week Post Separation Recovery Program for the first time at Springwood.

**Date:** Wednesday 6th May  
**Time:** 7.30pm – 9.45pm. 
**Venue:** Presbyterian Church Hall, 150 Macquarie Rd, Springwood. 
**Registration essential.** For further details contact Eileen or Rita on 9933 0205 or email soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

### Marriage Annulment Information Night

Each year CCSS Solo Parent Services present an Information Session to help people understand the process of Marriage Annulments in the Catholic Church. The evening is open to anyone who is interested.

**Venue:** Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd Orchard Hills  
**Date:** Tuesday 5th May  
**Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm. 
**Cost:** $5.00 
**Registration:** Rita or Eileen, PH: 9933 0205 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

### Uniform Shop - Winter Uniform

**ATTENTION YEAR 7 PARENTS / GUARDIANS**

The Uniform Shop will be opened throughout the holidays for the collection of winter uniforms.

Dates and times are:

**Thursday 16th April and Friday 17th April**

between the hours of 8:30am - 12:00pm and 12:30pm - 2:30pm.

**Mrs Amanda Deliapioglu**  
Uniform Shop Manager  
9849 9134