PRINCIPAL’S LETTER

This week our assembly fell on Remembrance Day.

Remembrance Day falls on the 11th November each year. I spoke with students about the history of this day. The following is an excerpt from our assembly.

On the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, a minutes’ silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.

In Australia and other allied countries, including New Zealand, Canada and the United States, November 11 became known as Armistice Day- a day to remember those who died in World War I. The day continues to be commemorated in these countries.

World War I began in 1914 and lasted for four years. More than 416 000 Australians volunteered for service in World War I. Of these, 324 000 served overseas. More than 60 000 Australians were killed, including 45 000 who died on the Western Front in France and Belgium and more than 8 000 who died on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. As well as Australian soldiers, many nurses in the Australian Army Nursing Service served on the Western Front. These nurses worked in overcrowded hospitals, looking after soldiers with shocking injuries and burns. Those who worked in hospitals close to the fighting were also in danger of being shelled by the enemy.

After World War II, the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom’s proposal that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

As you go about your school day today remember those who have fought for your freedom. Australia is often referred to as the lucky country. We are largely untouched by war and terrorism. Consider how you can build peace in the world around you. Embrace the opportunity to honour the bravery of those who have gone before us and live it in your own life. Encourage others to be fair and just and empower your family and friends to be the best they can be by setting the example with your own behaviour and thinking.

Regards,

Ms Laetitia Richmond
Principal
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The First Reading and the Gospel of the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time reveal the stories of two pious Jewish women. We learn that both women are widows. For women in biblical times a widow was someone who lived on the fringe of society. Without a husband they were totally dependent on the goodwill and charity of other people. There was no fortnightly pension from social security to pay for the necessities of life. Although we learn about their material poverty it would be too simplistic to state that this is the main message from these readings.

These women represent all people who live their lives as outcasts. The outcasts of our society are the people who are most deserving of our Mercy. Jesus notices the widow, he observes what other people fail to see. Jesus observes the widow donate all that she owns. While the two small coins may not be worth very much, for the widow, it is a very generous act because it is everything that she possesses. What we do counts, Jesus notices our small deeds.

Just as Jesus noticed the widow, Venerable Catherine McAuley noticed the plight of the poor. As we commence the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, may we be the Face of Mercy to those in this time and place.

Pope Francis writes of the necessity for Mercy in our world “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it.” (Misericordiae Vultus, n. 2)

Ms Genevieve Banks
Religious Education Coordinator

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Rev Fr Paul O.Carm will be at school during lunchtime on Friday, 27th November for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MERCY SISTER FROM IRELAND VISITS McAuley

Our school was very honoured to have Sr Aine Barrins rsm visit our school recently to speak to students about Venerable Catherine McAuley.

Sr Aine passionately spoke to all students at a full school assembly about Venerable Catherine McAuley’s vision and inspiration. Sr Aine continues to learn more about the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. She spoke to the students about Catherine’s achievements during her lifetime and how the Sisters of Mercy remained true to Catherine’s vision after her death.

We thank Sr Aine for visiting us and sharing with our students her wisdom on Catherine McAuley.

SISTER AINE BARRINS, MS LAETITIA RICHMOND AND SCHOOL CAPTAINS ANNYA AND ANNALISE.
TOP 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS TO MANAGE AND COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS ABOUT SCHOOLWORK AND RESULTS

Parents often have high expectations of their children in relation to how much homework they will do, and what results they will achieve in their studies. These expectations may result from cultural beliefs, personal experiences, desire for children to have better opportunities than their parents had and the like. Research shows that whilst parental expectations can play a significant part in children achieving high results, they can also contribute to high levels of student stress.

Some things to think about in relation to parental expectations include:

1. Understand your own motivations: Why do you want your child to do get particular marks in their studies? Is it because you have pressure from family/friends/society about what your child will achieve? Do you want them to follow in your career footsteps? Do you want them to have opportunities you never had as a child or young person? Understanding your own motivations will help you find balance in your expectations of your children.

2. Help your children to set realistic goals: Keep talking to your children about what they want to achieve, in individual subjects, at school overall and in other aspects of their life. Their career goals may mean they want to focus intensively on something like art or music, rather than maths or science. Helping them to identify their goals will enable them to determine what subjects they need to focus on and what marks they are likely to need, which means that effort can be concentrated on the areas which will help them to achieve their goals.

3. Be involved in your children's learning: Throughout the term talk to your children about what they are studying. Ask them to show you their book work and homework. The more you understand about what they are doing and how they are going along the way, the better you will be able to set and manage your expectations.

4. Make sure you really communicate what you expect: Many students feel like they are not meeting their parents’ expectations. Often this is a result of poor communication about expectations by both parties. Reflect on your motivations (see 1 above) and think about how you communicate your expectations to your children. Remember to praise them for the effort they make rather than the results they achieve, this way they are motivated to keep on trying, even when learning is difficult.

5. Develop an understanding of the school's assessment and reporting structures: Assessment and reporting systems change over time and are different in different schools, states and countries. Making sure you really understand what your children's report means may help you to understand what they are actually achieving. Your school can explain these to you if need be. Sometimes students are excelling, but reporting structures don't clearly represent this to parents.

6. Remember nobody is perfect: Even the brightest, most highly motivated child will struggle at times. They may struggle to understand a particular topic or concept, or they may struggle with motivation, particularly for a subject they don’t particularly enjoy. Problems with teachers or peers can also contribute. It is unrealistic that anyone can work with 100% effort all the time.

7. Provide practical homework and exam support: Provide practical help them to your children to enable them to access past papers or practise questions and work with them by things like proofreading and reviewing drafts, checking work and listening to speeches. Remember though, it is not your work, so don't make changes, rather make suggestions and provide guidance.

8. Spend time together doing something fun: Make sure your relationship with your child is about more than homework and study. Allocate some time to do fun things together. This is the time in which your child is most likely to open up to you about the things that they are struggling with and you can work out how best to help them. Ideas include going for a walk or run together, registering for a team sport, having a dinner date or going to a gallery or museum.

9. Support your child to do their best: You can do this by providing healthy, nutrient rich food, opportunities for exercise, rest and relaxation and an environment which is supportive of and conducive to study.

10. Keep alert for the physical and mental signs of stress: Familiarise yourself with how your child responds to stress. Do they withdraw? Act out? Work harder or stop working? When you notice that your child is stressed provide them opportunities to discuss what is worrying them and work with them to identify how you can help them. You may wish to involve the school counsellor, a teacher or tutor at this point.

You can learn more about how to support your student's learning at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: mcauley
Password: 189results
SEXTING - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN’S E-SAFETY COMMISSION

It’s important to remember that sexting can be a very serious concern. Creating and/or distributing sexual images with minors may constitute the production and/or distribution of child sexual abuse material. This can be the case even if the people in the image are willing participants.

Sexting is the sending of provocative or sexual photos, messages, or videos, generally using a mobile phone or webcam. It can also include posting this type of material online. Young people often consider sexting as a way of connecting in a relationship. While sharing suggestive images or text messages may seem like innocent flirting or fun, sexting can have serious social and legal consequences. To help protect their reputation, young people need to consider what they share online, and how they handle messages and images sent to them by others. In most instances of sexting, young people willingly share naked photos of themselves. However sexting can also happen in response to peer pressure.

What Can Parents Do?
Talk to your child about sexting to prevent any issues from arising. Make sure they are well aware of the risks that may occur if their images were to be spread beyond the person they intended them for.

Remind your child about the social and legal consequences of sexting. If anyone in the photo or video is under 18 they may be committing a crime if they send, receive or forward messages.

If your child has been involved in sexting, remember to stay calm and be reasonable about the consequences. Sexting is not uncommon behaviour and your child is not alone in being negatively impacted. Rather than adding to the distress, focus on finding a solution for your child.

Try to get the image/video removed from all locations to the greatest extent possible. If sexting content is posted online, report it to the website administrator.

Ensure that your child is supported if they have been negatively impacted by sexting. Their friends are critical so try to help them stay connected to them for support, both online and offline. At Catherine McAuley if we become aware of students sexting or images of such nature are brought to our attention, the Year Coordinator will contact the parents of the student to inform them of the concern.

CHANGES TO SSTs APPLICATIONS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL OPAL CARD

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) gives eligible students free or subsidised travel between home and school, on the approved train, bus or ferry services.

From Term 1 2016, Transport for NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process.

Automatic Renewal
Parents, guardians and students won’t need to apply for a School Opal card if they have already been given a school travel pass and will automatically receive a School Opal card for 2016.

Parents, guardians and students will need to apply if the student:

- is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school
- or, if the student’s personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Reduced Distribution
School Opal cards will automatically be sent to schools for existing pass holders for distribution for travel in Term 1, all new applications received for travel from the start of 2016 will be sent directly to the student’s nominated address.

Online Application Form
Parents, guardians and students can go online from 2nd November 2015 to complete the SSTS application form, print it out and return it to the school.

Same Eligibility Rules
The eligibility rules for subsidised school travel remain the same for travel inside and outside the Opal network. Students may need to live a minimum distance away from school.

- Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance or further.

Parents can find our more about the School Student Transport Scheme at transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools

Ms Debbie Grigson
Assistant Principal
(Pastoral Care/Administration)
MERCY 5 MEETING

Our Social Justice Leader Toni-Rose Abdel-Ahad and Assistant Social Justice Leader Johanna Jones attended an event at the end of last month which saw them come together with student representatives from the other five Mercy schools in Sydney.

The Mercy 5 schools are Catherine McAuley, Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, Mercy Catholic College Chatswood, Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College North Sydney and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College Burraneer. Student leaders from these five schools met at Our Lady of Mercy College to share ideas with each other for raising awareness of social justice issues within everyone’s own school communities. We had two staff members also attend, Ms Rehayem and Mr Taniane, who had the opportunity to meet with teachers from the other schools.

VISIT TO NURSING HOME

Our MAG students made one of their regular visits to the Cabrini Nursing Home at Westmead on Thursday, 29th October. Our students sat with the residents to watch a short performance by an indigenous artist which included music, dance and song.

STUDENTS LAUNCH ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Our St Vinnies Group, Mercy in Action Group and Student Leaders have launched the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. The school will be collecting items on behalf of St Vincent de Paul which will be used in hampers to be given out to the needy in our local area.

This year the Christmas hampers will be made up in re-usable enviro bags and in order to raise money to purchase these bags the students organised a cup cake stall on Wednesday at lunchtime. Cupcakes were sold for $2.

A notice outlining what items can be donated for the hampers is included at the back of the newsletter.
YEAR 11 DEBATING TEAM WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to our Year 11 Debating Team who are the winners of the State Championship CSDA Debating Competition.

This competition was held at McAuley last Friday and was attended by a number of schools from around NSW. Our Year 11 Debating Team had already won the Metro Senior Debating Competition and was now competing against the winner of the Regional Senior Debating Competition. The regional event was held during the day at McAuley with the senior winner, Edmund Rice College, Wollongong, then up against McAuley in the evening for the title of State Champions.

Our Year 11 debaters performed outstandingly to the topic of ‘That the Future Will Be Brighter’ with our girls arguing for the affirmative. Congratulations to the team who consisted of three debaters and two reserves: Anne, Annya and Annalise and reserves Roanne and Daniella.

YEAR 11 BUSINESS SERVICES STUDENTS COMPETE IN WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION

Congratulations to Natisha Abela-Falls and Teodora Nogic, both Year 11 Business Services students, who competed in the Business Services World Skills Competition, held at Ingleburn High on Thursday, 5th November.

Competing against students from schools across the region, Natisha and Teodora worked in a simulated office for the day, completing over 15 Business Services tasks. The tasks showcased many of their skills such as mail merge, spreadsheets and databases.

Their hard work and effort throughout the pre-comp work, and their impressive performance on the day, earned them fabulous results with Natisha placing 2nd and Teodora coming 3rd in the region. Congratulations girls!

Ms Lisa Allen
Business Services Teacher
AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

On Thursday, 30th July 180 students from Catherine McAuley entered the Australian Mathematics Competition. This competition was introduced in Australia in 1978 as the first competition in Australian schools and has become the largest single event on the Australian Education Calendar. It allows students to attempt the same tasks, on the same day, in about 40 countries making it a truly international event.

Students are asked to solve 30 problems in 75 minutes and the problems get progressively more difficult towards the end, when they are even challenging to the most gifted student. Given this, any award received in this competition whether it be a distinction, a credit, proficiency or participation is an achievement and all students who entered the competition are to be congratulated for their results.

We would like to formally recognise the students who achieved distinction awards as they attained a mark in the top 15% of their year and region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Banks</td>
<td>Gabriella Daaboul</td>
<td>Brittany Fong</td>
<td>Kelly Yi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Wondo</td>
<td>Judita Hudson</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
<pre><code>                                  | Rachel Kingston |
</code></pre>

A special mention goes to Judita Hudson of Year 10 who also achieved a Prudence Award. This award is given to the student in each school with the highest number of consecutive correct responses starting from question 1.

Congratulations to all the girls who entered the competition.

Mrs Joanne Evans  
Mathematics Coordinator

YEAR 11 VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS ATTEND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS EXCURSION

On Wednesday, 11th November our incoming Year 12 Visual Arts students went on an after school hours excursion to experience the After Hours Program at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. At the gallery the students were able to see firsthand an amazing selection of grand artworks spanning 400 years of art history at ‘The Greats: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland’ Exhibition.

The Visual Arts Department started this after school hours excursion initiative a few years ago as a way to extend our HSC students’ experience of art and understanding of the art world beyond the confines of the classroom.

As art teachers we love nothing more than sparking a student’s love and passion for art. We always delight in seeing the looks and expressions on their faces as they experience the art gallery, alive with music and lectures from visiting artists, art critics and historians. It shows them that art is a human experience and is meant to be enjoyed and experienced in life. Our recent visit was no different; our girls were amazed at the hive of activity that went on at the art gallery during its After Hours Program and they expressed their interest in coming back again.

Mrs Alison Finnerty  
Visual Arts Coordinator
YEAR 10 VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS VISIT ART GALLERY OF NSW

Our Year 10 Visual Arts students visited on Friday, 30th October the current exhibition at The Art Gallery of NSW called 'The Greats: Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland’. Students have written their reflections below:

Visiting The Greats Exhibition was the highlight of my day. There was something magical and inspiring about being in the same room as countless of priceless artworks by acclaimed artists who achieved a great level of skill to achieve it. It also allowed me to become familiar with other artists I may not have known prior to the exhibition.

Sublime and peaceful are the words to describe my experience of The Greats. By taking away our technical devices we could focus solely on the beauty of the artwork without worrying about taking a photo of it.

It displayed a wide range of skill of the landscape and people. The listening devices provided interesting background information of the artworks and it allowed you to develop your own views and relationship to the artworks.

I learnt that artworks and exhibitions are a way of representing culture, understanding and skill. It provides us with different perspectives of how people viewed and interacted with the world during certain times, which in turn, stimulates you to have greater understanding of the world.

Janina, 10VA1

What I enjoyed most about the day was viewing The Greats Exhibition. I loved how we were given an audio guide as it gave me an insight on the concepts put into the artworks as well as the lifestyle of the time the artworks were made. Being able to view incredible artworks that were made by well known artists, such as Leonardo Da Vinci, made the excursion so worthwhile. An honourable mention was colouring in a bird and building a cardboard sculpture.

My experience of The Greats exhibition was an amazing and unforgettable. I learnt about the importance of art and its central purposes, and Leonardo Da Vinci is left handed. For the artworks in The Greats exhibition, I learnt that a lot of exaggerated expressions are put within the faces of the figures within the artwork to portray their themes.

Lauren, 10VA1

PEER TUTORING

Peer tutoring in the school library continues with senior students available from Monday - Thursday between the hours of 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

Peer tutoring is a service our senior students offer to younger students with the senior girls able to assist with tricky homework questions or assignments. Any student needing help is invited to come along and take advantage of this service.

A reminder also that the school library is open from 7.40am - 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 7.40am - 4.00pm on Fridays.
SCIENCE COMPETITION AWARDS FOR 2015

Congratulations to all those students who participated in a number of science competitions which were held throughout the year. Many students were awarded certificates at the school assembly on Wednesday with some students awarded numerous certificates.

ICAS Science Competition

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Science Competition assess students’ skills in key scientific areas. The papers cover content on Earth and Beyond (incorporating the Earth Sciences and Astronomy), Energy and Change (incorporating Physics), Life and Living (incorporating Biology and Ecology) and Natural and Processed Materials (incorporating Chemistry).

Year 7: Achieved 2 Credits
Year 8: Achieved 3 Credits
Year 9: Achieved 7 Credits and a Distinction to Rhea Saju Thomas
Year 10: Achieved 12 Credits
Year 11: Achieved 4 Credits
Year 12: Achieved 1 Credit

Australian National Chemistry Quiz

This quiz consists of 30 multiple choice questions that assess a student’s ability to solve problems using their understanding of chemistry concepts.

Year 7: Achieved 2 Credits and a High Distinction to Tram Nguyen
Year 8: Achieved 3 Credits and a Distinction to Andrea Banks (D)
Year 9: Distinction to Rhea Saju Thomas
Year 10: Achieved 2 Credits and a Distinction to Johanna Jones
Year 11: Achieved 4 Credits and Distinctions to Alyssa Gatenby-Moore and Kelly Yi
Year 12: Achieved 5 Distinctions and 6 Credits

Big Science Competition

This international competition tests students’ scientific inquiry and problem solving skills as well as their scientific literacy in contemporary contexts. Questions are aligned with the Australian Curriculum - Science.

Year 7: Achieved 2 Credits
Year 8: Achieved 2 Credits and a High Distinction to Andrea Banks and Distinction to Caitlin Ardill
Year 9: Achieved 5 Credits and High Distinctions to Luella Champ and Saige Horn
Year 10: Achieved 17 Credits and Distinctions to Malavika Sampathkumar, Sara Mendonca and Ysabel Hollero
Year 11: Achieved 4 Credits and Distinctions to Alyssa Gatenby-Moore and Kelly Yi
Year 12: Achieved 3 Distinctions and 7 Credits
YEAR 7 FRENCH STUDENTS WIN ALLIANCE FRANCAISE COMPETITION

Congratulations to our Year 7 French students for their outstanding results in the Alliance Francaise’s Concours Chanson et Comptines (singing competition) and the Calendrier de la francophonie (poster competition). Our students performed outstandingly and were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Year 7 age group for both competitions.

The students have been invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Alliance Francaise in the Sydney CBD where they will be presented with their awards by the General Manager of the Alliance Francaise of Sydney.

These competitions are designed to enable NSW French students to apply their French language skills in a creative manner.

Congratulations to the following students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Porsha Crabe</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alana Sleiman</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Merheb</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anjaly Elizabeth Mathews</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatiana Topalian</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelina Cappello</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaina Bhatia</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexia Amer</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arshi Chariyekkara</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Concours Chanson et Comptines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracyle Chehade</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>Calendrier de la francophonie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Bassil</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Calendrier de la francophonie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marian Massaray</td>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Calendrier de la francophonie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT ALLIANCE GROUP

The Student Alliance Group met recently with their fellow students from other schools across Sydney for the last time in 2015. This group of students meet with other students from other girls’ schools in order to foster connections with them. The group was established early in 2014 and meets each term.

At their most recent meeting the students each had the task of creating an advertisement based on something they have gained from attending the meetings this past year. Our students made an advert called ‘I Am Ready’ which sells the message of believing in yourself.

This short 1.25 minute advertisement is of a very high standard so please view it by clicking on the link adjacent. Well done to the students involved!

https://youtu.be/lHbkBa6yqss
HOUSE SPIRIT ON SHOW IN NEWCOMBE BALL COMPETITION

Our students have been enjoying a friendly, although competitive, competition at lunchtimes over the past couple of weeks as the Houses have come together to play against each other in newcombe ball.

Newcombe ball is a variation of volleyball which sees two teams compete against each other as they throw the ball over the net with the goal of having the other team miss the catch and have a player eliminated. Every time a player touches the ball without catching it they are eliminated until there are no players left on the losing team.

Homeroom classes, often with their Homeroom Teachers, have been competing against other Homerooms to see who will be named the Newcombe Ball Champion. Homerooms who participate are collecting points for their House with points going towards the House Cup.

MATHS DEPARTMENT CELEBRATE PARALLEL LINE DAY

Wednesday, 11th November was not only Remembrance Day but in the Mathematics community the day is also known as ‘Parallel Line Day’. The Mathematics Department encouraged staff to wear an item of clothing on Wednesday that featured parallel lines.
CAREERS CORNER

The latest online Careers News newsletter is now available via this link: Career News 11 November 2015.
If students are curious as to how they could combine a Business degree with social justice, watch the video from the UNSW Business School.
There is a new degree in Humanitarian and Development studies, and still more info days and open days coming up, plus school holidays workshops for budding young actors.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2016

The Annual General Meeting for the P&F was held last Tuesday night on 3rd November 2015. At this meeting a new committee was voted in for the upcoming year.

We farewell the outgoing President, Mr Ian Goldthorpe and the outgoing Secretary, Mr Jeff Knox who have both served on the P&F Committee for many years. We thank them for their service to the school and are very grateful for their time and effort over the years. We wish them and their families all the best as their daughter’s finish at McAuley.

The new committee for 2016 is:

President - Grace Donnelly
Vice President - Cathy Café
Secretary - Peta Cappello
Treasurer - Tracy O’Hearn
PRC Representative - Angela Franulovic
Committee members - Kylie Dewberry, Trish Griffiths, Kristie Sebellos and Jeannette Gutierrez

Mr IAN GOLDTHORPE, left, AND MR JEFF KNOX, centre front, WITH OTHER P&F DADS AT MERCY DAY IN 2013.

MERIT AWARDS

Congratulations to all the students who were awarded merit awards at the recent school assembly.

At McAuley every student is encouraged and supported to strive to do her personal best at all times in all aspects of the school community. The merit award system acknowledges and affirms all students in many different areas such as Effort, Service and Achievement.

PHOTO 1 OF 3
We wish Year 9 student Kate Brown all the best as she heads off this weekend for a five week Japanese exchange. Kate will attend the high school Kanrei Shirayuri Gakuen along with her host sister Amane. Amane was at McAuley earlier in the year and stayed with Kate and her family.

We look forward to hearing a report from Kate once she returns from her trip.

PAT M TESTING

During Week 7 all students in Year 7 - 10 will complete the online PAT-M test to assess their skills in Mathematics. Teachers will compare this information with NAPLAN results to get a more comprehensive understanding of how to support your daughter to achieve her best. All schools in the Parramatta Diocese will complete the PAT-M test. Like NAPLAN, this test provides teachers with objective information for setting realistic learning goals and planning effective programs.

If you have any questions about PAT-M testing, please don’t hesitate to phone Miss Michelle Ribeiro on 9849 9100.

Ms Michelle Ribeiro
Acting Assistant Principal
(Learning & Teaching)

NEWS FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Visit our School Facebook Page by clicking on the Facebook button above for more news stories and photos from Catherine McAuley. A recent post to the page included:

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 who have now finished their HSC exams!

The last exam was Visual Arts and our Visual Arts students were pleased to hold up a ‘Just Do It’ and ‘Just Did It’ sign as ‘Just Do It’ was the Year 12 motto for the Class of 2015. The girls have now ‘ticked off’ their exams and their schooling life is behind them. We wish them a wonderful future as Women of Mercy!!
The Parramatta Sun this week features a story on page 7 about our Science Department and former student Dr Edith Chow. The article quotes our Science Coordinator, Mrs Sue O’Connell, and also features a photo of Mrs O’Connell, Dr Chow and Year 10 Science students.

Upcoming Events at the Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre

Reflection Day for Women - Saturday 28th November, 2015 9.30am to 3.30pm. Looking for some quiet time to prepare for Advent and the Year of Mercy? Then this day is FOR YOU! Cost is $25 and includes morning and afternoon tea, BYO Lunch. At: Family Hall, Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Bookings: info@schoenstatt.org.au or 4773 8338.

Christmas Carols at the Shrine – Saturday 19th December, 2015 7pm to 8.30pm: The Schoenstatt Sisters would like to invite you to join them for an evening of carol singing at the Shrine. Please bring a blanket or chairs and some snacks if you wish. Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels and shepherds. At: Outside Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Accommodation Specials – January 2016 Only – Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre

Personal Retreat: why not recharge with some quiet time this January – Two persons stay in the fully catered Joseph Kentenich House with private ensuite, for a minimum of two nights – Special Price is $70 per person/night. Includes twin share accommodation, linen and all meals, including morning & afternoon tea.

Family/Group Retreat: Bring all the kids plus your family and friends to our “Home of Light” Self-catered group accommodation facility. Sleeping 33 persons in 11 rooms, mostly bunk style accommodation (6 rooms with 2 bunks in each room) but also includes 4 private twin share rooms. A kitchen, large dining room and lounge area make this a complete bush getaway, tucked into the valley at Mount Schoenstatt with Kangarooos visiting daily. Special applies to weekday bookings (Mon- Thurs only) stay during January: Minimum of 4 night stay at $200 per night.
The School Community of Catherine McAuley, Westmead has much pleasure in inviting all parents to our

2015 School Awards Ceremony for Years 7 to 11

in the Morley Centre on Tuesday 8th December 2015
Commencing at 9.30am

Guests will need to be seated by 9.15am

Limited paid parking is available via Gate 5
Opposite Westmead Private Hospital.
Alternatively, the school is a 5 minute walk from Westmead Station

Please return this slip to Homeroom Teacher by Tuesday 1st December 2015
Years 7 – 11 Awards Ceremony
(Please Note: Siblings still at school to wear school uniform please)

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Homeroom: ___________________________

☐ I will be attending ☐ I am unable to attend

Names of immediate family members attending ____________________ and ____________________

(Maximum of 2 places available for immediate family members only)
Dress appropriate to a formal school event
Expand your imagination by reading this summer and you could **win an iPad mini**.

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of four iPad minis. The more books you read, the more chances you have to win*

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au
Entries close 5 February 2016.
### Term 4 General Meeting

#### Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Doors Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 November 2015</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Diocesan Assembly Centre (IFM), Grd Flr, Cnr Flushcombe Rd &amp; Marian St, Blacktown</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1</strong></th>
<th>Meeting Open/Welcome to PRC</th>
<th>Lynn McKinnon</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Acknowledgement Of Country</td>
<td>Priscilla Pickering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>Anne Maree Pletkan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Corrections &amp; Approval of Term 2, 2015 minutes/Business Arising from previous minutes/Correspondence</td>
<td>Linda Gosbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>President’s Report</td>
<td>Lynn McKinnon (YP)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
<td>Rebecca Moxcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td>CCSP report</td>
<td>Anne-Maree Pletkan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td>Cluster Group discussions</td>
<td>Lead by PRC Cluster Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>Guest Presentation</td>
<td>Tim Hardy, Team Leader - system Learning, CEDP</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All students are gifted and talented...identifying personalised pathways to success</td>
<td>Anthony McElhone, Principal St Oliver’s Primary School, Harris Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td>General Business</td>
<td>Selina Callela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td>Thank you and farewell</td>
<td>Selina Callela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**The PRC Welcomes**  
Schools’ Parent Representatives  
Interested Friends and Guests  
Catholic Education Office Representatives
All students are gifted and talented....identifying personalised pathways to success

Term 4 PRC General Meeting – Mon 16 Nov 2015, 7pm

All catholic school parents and educators welcome!

Free presentation to all who attend the Term 4 General Meeting.

Presenters: Tim Hardy, Team Leader Numeracy, Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta

and

Anthony McElhone, Principal, St Oliver’s Primary School, Hass Park

Venue: Diocesan Assembly Centre(IFM), Grd Flr. Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian St. Blacktown

Doors open 6.30pm for coffee & tea.

Further enquiries: Please email prcparra@president@gmail.com

Please Note: Note-taking is the responsibility of each attendee for the benefit of themselves and the school community that they represent. Formal handouts from presentations is unlikely.
You can help St Vincent de Paul spread Christmas cheer this year by donating items for our Christmas hampers.

Below is a suggestion of items you might like to include to help us create some delicious hampers...

* Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date.

- Christmas decorations (eg. Bon Bons, tinsel)
- Tins of shoulder ham #
- Christmas cake/pudding
- Long life custard/cream/milk
- Tins of fruit
- Lollies
- Chips
- Biscuits (assorted)
- Salsa
- Drinks (eg. soft drink, fruit juice, cordial)
- Rice
- Jellies
- Jam/honey/vegemite
- Coffee, tea, sugar
- Hot chocolate/Milo
- Gravox
- Tins of vegetables (eg. carrots, peas, corn, potatoes)
- Pasta
- Christmas plates/napkins

**Please note that we are unable to accept food items containing nuts.

# Please keep ham out of complete hampers so we can accommodate for our clients who do not eat ham for religious reasons.

Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this festive season extra special for families in need this Christmas!