PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

As our year draws to a close I would like to congratulate students for their efforts and enthusiasm for their school work and assessments, their involvement in so many different activities and their love for our school. As the term winds up...

Year 7 have their surf safety excursion to look forward to. Year 8 students have chosen their electives for next year and will enter Stage 5. Year 9 students are about to train as Peer Support Leaders. Year 10 are preparing to enter senior school and Year 11 have now magically turned into Year 12.

There are still a number of major events for 2015. Our Performing Arts students are preparing for the Summer Showcase night on Wednesday 2nd December. Ms Banks will accompany five Year 10 students to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide next week. We wish those students all the very best.

Congratulations to students and staff who have worked hard to achieve success both in and out of the classroom. Our Junior and Senior Cricket teams played in the MCCS Finals. Congratulations to Mrs Bev Smith, Mr Anthony Taniane and the girls.

We had great success in the recent Alliance Francaise Competition, congratulations to Ms Denise Thompson and Mr Michael Forsyth and the students from Year 7.

Year 11 students have volunteered at Ronald McDonald House as Homework Heroes and holiday craft tutors - thanks to Ms Amanda Chahine, Mrs Louise Beadman and Ms Debbie Grigson.

Our Maths Department are preparing for the Maths Fun Day on Friday. Thanks to Mrs Joanne Evans and her team as well as student volunteers who will be a big part of this day where primary students will come and work at McAuley.

Congratulations to our Hospitality and Business Service students who recently took part in the World Skills Competition. Thank you to Mrs Dorothy Spiteri, Mrs Taryn Grima and Miss Lisa Allen.

Students have been fundraising for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas hamper appeal - thank you to all Homerooms and teachers for taking part in this.

McAuley is such a busy and exciting place and as staff and students we are so fortunate to be able to take part in so many opportunities.

At this time of the Year we also farewell teachers who will leave us to work with new communities. We know that they will take a piece of McAuley life with them and leave with us many great memories of their time here.

Miss Fiona Carroll, Miss Rebecca Hay and Mrs Anne-Marie Park have been with us only a short time this year but they have already had a great impact on our students. We wish them the best for next year and their next positions in school communities.
Mr Michael Otter will take 12 months leave next year - we wish him all the best for his long service leave.

Mrs Anne Bashall will join the St Patrick’s College community at Sutherland - we wish Mrs Bashall all the very best and thank her so much for her efforts not only as an English teacher but as our Mercy Tutor Coordinator as well.

Mrs Lisa Kemmis will join the school community at Mount St Benedict’s College, Pennant Hills as their Religious Education Coordinator. Mrs Kemmis has been a member of staff at McAuley for the last eight years as well as being an ex-student. Thanks to Mrs Kemmis for her work not only as a teacher, but also as Assistant REC and Caritas House Patron this year.

Ms Shirley Jones will retire at the end of this year. Ms Jones has been associated with our school for over 40 years. She has inspired, educated and cared for McAuley staff and students throughout this time. We have been truly blessed to have her with us and I thank her for her dedication and love for our school community. Ms Jones has seen McAuley grow from a young school that catered only for Years 7-10 to a school of 1100 girls today. We wish Ms Jones all the very best and thank her for all she has done.

Without a doubt 2016 will be bigger and brighter as well as being our 50th birthday. Thank you to parents for your support and partnership in our work with your daughters.

Regards

Ms Laetitia Richmond
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Last Sunday, the season of Ordinary Time concluded with the Solemnity of Christ the King. Before we commence the period of waiting for the Messiah in Advent, we have the opportunity to reflect upon Christ’s Kingship. The prophet Daniel frequently spoke about the promised Messiah and the Kingdom of God, a theme addressed by Jesus in the Gospels. In Luke’s Gospel, the coming of the Messiah is revealed at the Annunciation. At Jesus’ birth, the Magi travel from the east to pay him homage. Thirty-three years later, as he enters Jerusalem, days before his crucifixion, Jesus is hailed as ‘the one who comes in the name of the Lord’.

When addressing Pontius Pilate, Jesus politely tells him that his authority has come from God, unlike Pilate’s power which has come from humans, (John 18:33-37). He also reminds Pilate that ‘his kingdom is not of this world’. Despite his status, the only crown that Jesus received was made of thorns, not gold and precious stones. His kingship did not protect him from vulnerability. As an infant, he was wrapped in swaddling cloths and placed in a feeding trough for animals. At the end of his earthly life, after hanging almost naked on a cross to be executed, Jesus was hastily placed in a borrowed tomb.

Jesus was not a conquering warrior but his kingship has given us the promise of eternal life. As Jesus embraced his Father’s plans, we need to remember the great love that God has for us. No army or weapons can defeat the power of evil, like a naked, beaten Christ. Like Venerable Catherine McAuley, we need to place our trust in God, ‘thy will be done’. May we prepare over the next few weeks to welcome the newborn Jesus into our lives.

Ms Genevieve Banks
Religious Education Coordinator

VIEW OF JERUSALEM FROM DOMINUS FLEVIT
END OF YEAR ACTIVITY

On Wednesday 9th December, the school will be celebrating the conclusion of the school year with an excursion to Wet 'n' Wild Park. The day will begin at 8:30am with students participating in their final liturgy and assembly as a year group for 2015. At 10:30am students will be bused to Wet 'n' Wild and will return to the school by 3:00pm.

A permission note outlining the day went home with students through Homeroom on Friday. There is a copy of the permission note on the school website.

YEARS 7 – 11 AWARDS CEREMONY

School will finish at 1pm on Tuesday 8th December 2015 as per the permission note sent home at the beginning of the year. Students are to wear their full summer uniform. The program for the day is:

8:40am   Homeroom
9:30am   Awards Ceremony
11:15am  Recess
11:45am  Pastoral Care Time
1:00pm   Dismissal

Students are not permitted to leave the grounds at 1:00pm and then return to catch buses from the bus bay. Students catching the bus from the bus bay will be supervised in Mercy Square for lunch then will go to the library for the remainder of the day where they can read or complete school work of their choice.

TRANSPORT COMMENT

Last week a lady contacted the school to inform us that on her train that morning there was a Catherine McAuley girl who stood up for adults. The lady said there were other seats still free and the gentleman who sat next to her also told the student to sit down, but the girl said no that's ok, I've been doing this for a couple of years. The lady wanted to let the school know of the girl’s behaviour and it is a credit to the girl, the school and her parents as the lady is aware that people would normal ring to complain but she wanted to inform the school of the positive response from the student.

As Catherine McAuley says “it is important to do the ordinary, extraordinarily well”.

ONLINE SAFETY

I recommend the following link to parents. The information has been provided by the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner on a quick guide to popular social media sites and apps. The information will provide you with a better understanding of the range of social media available to young people.


LOCKERS

Each student is provided with a locker. This locker remains with the student for the six years they are enrolled at Catherine McAuley. It is important that students clean out their locker at the end of the year. The lockers must be left emptied over the Christmas break so it is important for students to plan on how they take their books home. Please discuss this with your daughter so they do not leave it to the last day to carry all their books home. During the holidays the areas surrounding the lockers will be cleaned so it is important that nothing is left in the locker.

Ms Debbie Grigson
Assistant Principal
(Pastoral Care/ Administration)
SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

COMFORTABLE CUP OF TEA DAY

The Year 10 and 11 School Leaders joined together on Friday 13th November to make eatable ‘comfortable cups of tea’ for Comfortable Cup of Tea Day and to remember Mother Catherine McAuley and the words she said to one of her fellow Mercy Sisters not long before she died: “Now fearing that I might forget it again, will you tell the sisters to get a good cup of tea, I think the community room would be a good place, when I am gone, to comfort one another. But God will comfort them.”

Ever since, the comfortable cup of tea and the teacup/pot has been a symbol of Mercy hospitality. Our school leaders came to school very early on Friday morning to make up the eatable tea cups from lollies and Arnott’s Tic Toc biscuits. The teacups were then sold to students for $1 with all money raised going to Mamre House.

Comfortable Cup of Tea Day has become an annual event for people across the Mercy world to celebrate the life and legacy of Catherine McAuley. It is held between 24th September (Mercy Day) and 12th December.

McAULEY’S GOT TALENT

Ryan and Caritas Houses organised the McAuley’s Got Talent talent quest which was held on Friday, 13th November, to raise money for Mercy Works and their work on Bathurst Island with indigenous communities.

This talent quest is an annual event which each year showcases and celebrates the range of talents of the students at our school. Congratulations to all who performed and the winners with Isabel Szanto, Year 12, in 1st for her guitar performance; Bianca Hu, Madeline Losco and Reena Dela Cruz, Year 10, in 2nd for their hip hop dance; and Porsha Crabbe, Year 7, in 3rd for her singing.
YEAR 10 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN RYDA ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Year 10 students participated in the RYDA road safety education program on Monday, 23rd November at Sydney Olympic Park. Student groups rotated around six different activities, including listening to the story of a road accident survivor who sustained a brain injury and observing the stopping distance of a car at varying speeds. The students were made aware of some confronting statistics and stories and were involved in discussions on minimising risk regarding road safety.

I learnt so many new strategies for road safety that I had not known before. It was a real eye opener. *Racheal Prain, 10 Veritas*

Very confronting. Definitely going to think twice about my actions when I am behind the wheel. *Madeline McLoughlin, 10 Clare*

I feel like I have gained knowledge about safety while driving for both myself and others. *Jessica Sayhoun, 10 Caritas*

The students should be commended for their behaviour and participation on the day.

*Mrs Joanne Rehayem*
*Acting Year 10 Coordinator*

YEAR 9 LUNCHTIME ART EXHIBITION

Our Year 9 Visual Arts students held an art exhibition at lunchtime on Wednesday, 25th November to showcase their completed landscape artworks. The exhibition was called ‘Landscape to Canvas’ and showed the students’ abstract landscapes which were completed as part of their unit ‘Exploring the Landscape’.
YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP – SOUTH COAST

It was a privilege for all of Year 11/12 Geography to discover the many wonders of the South Coast area with its amazing bio-reserves and intrinsic heritage environments.

We travelled to Kiama where the blowhole is located, and then on to Seven Mile Beach at Gerroa. We discovered that the beach area is eroded, a result of the winds, waves and tides. However, in terms of management, there has been the implementation of boulders and rocks to help reduce these effects at the entrance to the lagoon. Our understanding of the area was thoroughly enhanced through the wise words of Mr Otter and Mrs Noud. For us, as geographers, conducting primary fieldwork made the experience feel so real.

The second day was filled with adventure and excitement as we witnessed bottle-nose dolphins during our cruise on Jervis Bay with the company ‘Dolphin Watch Cruises’. They would jump and dive around the boat which left us in complete awe. This company is our case study of a business in the tourist industry and we were given an informative talk by the management.

At Callala Beach / Myola we first headed down to Currambene Creek. Erosion was evident with the trees falling in the water, a result of powerful currents from the tides. Management saw the development of a break wall which sees the water hit its edge, stopping erosion of the sandy banks.

We found shark eggs which had a spiral shape appearance that left everyone very confused, as we’ve never seen anything like it. It was frightening yet amazing to know we were near sharks but that didn’t stop us from swimming in the area.

At Werri Beach we observed the residential area that has been built too close to the shoreline destroying the dune ecosystem. In order to preserve this regenerated area, there has been the implementation of board and chain walks that prevent people and animals (dogs) from trampling on the dunes.

Overall, conducting the fieldwork was an engaging learning experience which has really opened our eyes to how much humans impact on coastal dune ecosystems, both positively and negatively.

We also had opportunities to swim in the beach at Gerroa and Callala Beach and the rock pool at Kiama.

Sarah Achermann
Year 11/12 Geography
'MAKERSPACE' MAKES IT TO Mcauley

In recent weeks, all Catherine McAuley students have been invited to attend the ‘Makerspace’ located in the library. Makerspace is a new movement to encourage thinking skills and creativity. They are popping up in school libraries, universities and public libraries around the world. Makerspace encourages students to “tinker” with any medium, however we are starting with students engaging with circuitry by using Makey Makey kits.

The name Makey Makey comes from Make + Key and is an invention kit for the 21st century. Students are able to turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet. The designers of the Makey Makey kit describe it as a simple invention kit for both beginners and experts doing art, engineering and everything in between. The kit consists of a circuit board, alligator clips and a usb cable. Students connect the circuit board via the alligator clips to objects such as a carrot, a banana, a coin or even themselves. In fact any material that can conduct at least a tiny bit of electricity can be used. This object will now become a touch pad meaning students can turn their carrot into a piano or their banana into a keyboard for typing.

This week the students who attended the lunchtime session were experimenting with making music using objects other than the keys on the computer keyboard. They were using carrots as if they were pianos and playing the carrot just like a piano to play music over the internet.

The Makerspace is supported by the Student Leadership Team and library staff.

The Makerspace will continue in 2016, so put your thinking cap on - what will you come up with? Possibilities are endless!

9 CARITAS WINS NEWCOMBE BALL COMPETITION

Congratulations to 9 Caritas and their teacher Ms Bain who are the winners of the House newcombe ball competition. This competition has been running at lunchtimes over the past few weeks with its aim to be a friendly competition between Homerooms. All Homerooms who participated collected points for their House with points going towards the House Cup.

The grand final event was held on Wednesday last week with 9 Caritas going up against 8 Dobson.
CAREERS CORNER

The latest Careers News newsletter contains lots of information for students. There are a number of important info days for HSC school leavers, information sessions on event management courses, new tertiary courses on offer, and exciting school holidays workshops for everyone to explore some future careers options in music and audio, design, acting, and film.

**Year 12 Students Offered University Early Entry**

A number of our Year 12 students have been offered early entry to university which is a wonderful achievement for them.

- Chloe Obreza has been offered a place in Speech Pathology at Australian Catholic University through the Early Achievers Entry Program.
- Adriana Zeidan has also been made an early offer from ACU under the Early Achievers Program for Occupational Therapy.
- Nadine Tannous has been made an early offer in Economics at Macquarie University under the School’s Recommendation Scheme.
- Brianna O’Brien has been made an offer from Charles Sturt University under the School’s Recommendation Scheme for Animal Science.

The latest online Careers News newsletter is now available via this link: [Career News 25 November 2015](#).

PDSSSC AWARDS NIGHT

Congratulations to two of our students who received awards at the PDSSSC Awards Night which was held on Monday, 16th November at OLMC.

Jasmine James-Howard, Year 7, received the Age Champion trophy for Swimming and Emily Rotunno, Year 11, was rewarded for her achievements in the Sport of Athletics. Congratulations girls.
SEMESTER TWO MERITS

BRONZE

Year 7  Ann Berly, Aaina Bhatia, Mary Bojo, Adriana Busic, Samantha Cannistra, Arshi Chariyekkara, Shayne Cortes, Shaine Lucas, Tram Nguyen, Jacinta Nguyen, Simren Nijjar, Krista Obmaca, Saskia Phelps, Maddison Sherry, Elianna Tiongson, Jane Tleige

Year 8  Olivia Andree-Everts, Lakshmi Aravamudhan, Caitlin Ardil, Sirena Azzi, Andrea Banks, Paige Bartlett, Ericka Bautista, Tyrese Bernardo, Rachel Brown, Mirryn Byrne, Celeste Carrozza, Rebekah Clarke, Alyce Coorey, Chantelle Cortez Maglalang, Eunice Cruz, Giuliana D’Ariole, Deanna Di Costanzo, Anastasia Dingli, Danielle Faddoul, Payton Frangie, Sarah-Jane Georges, Olivia Lawne, Settimia Luccitti, Lauren Madeleine, Abby Maranan, Georgia Maroun, Marian Massaray, Nandini Menon, Rebekah Nehme, Amber Palmer, Andrea Papelera, Elizabeth Pynadath, Bianca Queixalas, Isabella Riitano, Maria Rizk, Reanna Rodrigues, Danielle Saad, Christina Sanosa, Tara So

Year 9  Joanne Candor, Yu Jin Choe, Aiswarya Rajeev, Michelle Russo, Arden Ye

Year 11  Toni-Rose Abdel-Ahad, Jennifer Bauer, Brittany Cimilio

SILVER

Year 7  Praveena Navaratnam, Jane Tleige

Year 8  Samuelle Amor, Lakshmi Aravamudhan, Ana Blazan, Gursheen Chadra, Chantelle Cortez Maglalang, Sinead Elliott, Jessica Gonzalez, Madelaine Hamilton, Kayla Hernandez, Vaine Loto’Aniu, Geosera Muraltharan, Georgia Petts, Elizabeth Pynadath, Maria Rizk, Isha Shroff, Jamelle Touma, Claudia Wijaya

Year 9  Joanne Candor, Yu Jin Choe, Aiswarya Rajeev, Demiana Shahid-Said, Melanie Veidre, Arden Ye

Year 11  Toni-Rose Abdel-Ahad

GOLD

Year 8  Kayla Hernandez, Vaine Loto’Aniu, Georgia Petts

Year 9  Vanessa Abdou, Joanne Candor, Yu Jin Choe, Revati Raja, Sophie Vallido

PLATINUM

Year 8  Claudia Wijaya

Year 9  Vanessa Abdou, Yu Jin Choe, Amy Earl

Year 11  Nicole Abood, Simone Saba

MERCY PIN

Year 11  Daniella Franklin, Pragaa Ganesh, Lisa Sheraton, Elyssa Vickers
CATHERINE McAULEY GOLDEN JUBILEE 2016

Our school will celebrate its golden jubilee next year in 2016. 50 years since the school was first opened on 6th November 1966.

To commemorate this special event the school will be holding a number of activities throughout the year in 2016.

A meeting was held last week with former students and staff to begin the discussions of what the school will be doing to celebrate. It was wonderful to see a number of ex students attend this meeting including former students from the first ever class in 1966. These former students remember walking from St Patrick’s Parramatta over to their new school site at Catherine McAuley Westmead. The school back then was surrounded by paddocks and horses and the students began their classes in demountable classrooms as the main buildings of the new school were still being built.

Thank you to all our former students and current staff who attended the meeting and look out for more information early next year on what the school will be doing to celebrate our milestone.

CLASS OF YEAR 10 1975 REUNION

The Class of Year 10 1975 held a wonderful reunion on Saturday, 20th September with approximately 40 ex McAuley students attending. The reunion was held at the Fox Hill Golf Club, Prospect and everyone had a wonderful night and shared lots of great memories. Some photos from the event have just been shared with us.
**NOTICEBOARD**

**... SEEKING MENTORS**

Would you like to give something back to your community?

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta’s Post School Options Team is looking for suitable employers to provide one-on-one mentoring in the workplace for secondary students. We are seeking people in small business who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program, on a voluntary basis.

The volunteer mentor hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week for 2 school terms (May to September, excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are provided with complimentary mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment ‘Mentoring in the Community’ for their participation.

Employers can be from any industry, as an individual in a trade area – clerical, administration, hairdressing and beauty, or connected to a major employer for example, Bunnings, Woolworths, etc.

Please consider this call for assistance so that this program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities. If you would be interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact:

Leoni Jeavons-Fellows  
Coordinator Post School Options  
0424 750 583

**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:

**Year 7 Visual Arts Students Finish Off Their Ceramic Artworks**

Year 7 VA1 students with Ms Finnerty were yesterday finishing off the final stages of their ceramic artworks. The students are completing a unit called ‘Whimsical Creatures’ and they had to design and make a hybrid creature out of clay inspired by the practice of ceramic artist Jenny Orchard who they got to meet and talk to earlier in the year.