

# newsletter

## Principal's Message

Issue 2: February 2017

### DATE CLAIMERS

**Friday 17 February**

**Inaugural Mass**

10:00 AM at

"The Oakland Shed"

Followed by our

**Swimming Carnival**

Beaudesert Swimming Pool

11:00 AM – 2:30 PM

The hot weather has certainly been testing us over the past week or two. We are extremely lucky to have such wonderful spaces, that whilst not air-conditioned, provide comfortable areas for our students. This is especially the case with 'The Shed' which provides a beautiful aspect over to the local ranges, whilst also a cool, shaded space for our students at their break times.

This week, we also introduced some different activities into the first lunch break to enable our students to relax and enjoy the company of their peers. Handball is the chosen activity at lunch, with access now to board games such as Chess, Connect4 and Uno to name a few.

On Friday 17 February, the College will celebrate its inaugural Commencement Mass in 'The Shed' at McAuley College. The mass will start at 10.00 am and we are grateful to Fr Michael McKeaten for presiding over this important milestone in the College year. I hope you have received your invitation and can join us for our Opening Mass. It was a privilege last week, to join both St Mary's Primary school, Beaudesert and All Saints Catholic Primary school, Boonah for their Opening Masses. In particular, it was lovely to return with past students looking so smart in their McAuley College uniform. I thank Charlie Love and Felicity Greber for accompanying Mr Harris to St Mary's, and to Anna Brandon, Gabrielle Wilson and Jayden Tomlinson for accompanying myself to Boonah; all were wonderful representatives of McAuley College. We wish both communities all the best for 2017!



I also remind parents we are looking for volunteers to help at our inaugural Inter-house Swimming Carnival, which will be held on the same Friday following our mass. Please contact Mrs Amy Richards, if you are available on this day to help in anyway, especially with lane timing.

### **Meet the staff...**

Following on from last week's newsletter, it is my pleasure to introduce the remainder of our staff.



#### **Mrs Megan Field**

Mrs Field is the resident Music specialist, with a love of Voice. She is the MacKillop Pastoral Care teacher; and Mathematics, Science and Music teacher. This term, Mrs Field will be working to establish our Instrumental Program.



#### **Mrs Pamela Brechin**

Mrs Brechin is our Spanish expert. She is the Frassati Pastoral Care teacher; and English, History and Spanish teacher.



#### **Mrs Jayne Heit**

Mrs Jayne Heit is our Food Technology guru. She partners with Mrs Field in the MacKillop Pastoral Care group and teaches Food Technology, Civics and Citizenship & Economics and Mathematics.

We are extremely lucky to have such skilled and talented professionals delivering quality learning experiences to the students of McAuley College, in our endeavour to establish high expectations that inspire students to achieve beyond their potential.

I remind parents of the importance of their son or daughter participating in all aspects of College life. Research shows that students who participate and get involved develop a stronger sense of belonging and confidence, that in turn promote greater levels of resilience. And so, when we look at activities occurring during the lunch break, Swimming Carnival, Opening Mass, and learning within the classroom... all are equally important opportunities for students to engage in College life, participate and feel connected! I thank parents for working in partnership with us to ensure their son or daughter value each and every learning experience that is planned and offered by the College... with the number one rule being... to show up!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our inaugural mass on Friday 17 February.

Yours in Mercy,

**Deidre Young**  
**Principal**

## **LEARN... In action**

As this is the first fortnightly newsletter of the year I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new students and their families to McAuley College. The Scenic Rim has waited a long time for a Catholic secondary school to open in this region and as such it's both an honour and a privilege to be part of the foundation staff this college.

### **Curriculum**

As we come to the end of Week 3 hopefully your sons and daughters are still coming home and sharing with you the things that are happening in class each day. As part of that sharing, I hope that you have heard the terms "Learning Intentions" and "Success Criteria". These two terms form part of the high yield strategies that are aspects of our whole school approach known as Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Moving Forward.

The purpose of these strategies is to support students in knowing the levels at which they are achieving and what they need to do to improve their learning outcomes. This makes learning visible to students, staff and parents and gives students greater control over their learning.

The second-high yield strategy, which follows on from Learning intentions and Success Criteria, is Learning Walks and Talks. Next week a team of Education Officers from BCE will be visiting McAuley College to begin Learning Walks and Talks with the staff. During these sessions, this group will move through classrooms speaking with students and asking them a number of questions about their learning. The information gained from these activities is fed back to teachers so that we can assess the effectiveness of our learning and teaching processes and make adjustments to better support student learning.

As we move through the year I will discuss other aspects of BCE's whole school pedagogical approach as we use it to guide the learning and teaching on our College.

### **Student Laptops**

The distribution of student one-to-one devices will take place in the next week. Students will receive a DELL Latitude 3160 laptop and power charger unit as well as a Targus computer case that will fit into their college bag. When students receive their laptop, they will be informed that the charger unit is to remain at home. It's important that students get into the habit of fully charging their device each night so they can have maximum usage the next day at school. By leaving the power chargers at home it's less likely that they will be lost. The Targus cases are designed to provide protection for the laptop inside the student's school bag. Whenever the laptop is not in use it must be in its protective case. During the school day, the laptop and case need to be stored in a student's locker and when travelling between home and school the laptop must be in its case in the student's school bag.

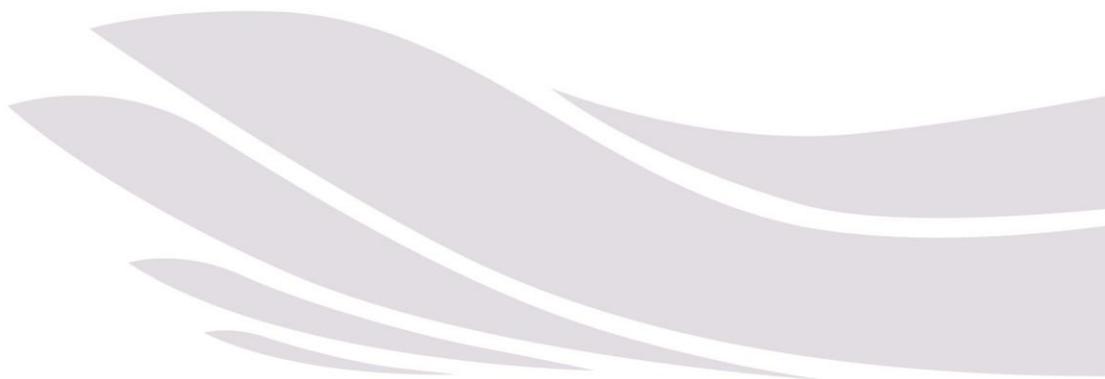
When students receive their laptops, they will receive an introduction to the College Portal, the Office 365 package that Brisbane Catholic Education provides for all students and staff and an overview of the online Jacaranda textbooks that the College has purchased instead of hardcopy texts.

Following the distribution of student laptops, we will hold an information evening for parents at the College to demonstrate the College Portal, Student Portal and Parent Portal as well as the Jacaranda online textbook series.

Have a great fortnight.

**Michael Darcy**

**Deputy Principal**



## **BELIEVE... In action**

I extend a very warm welcome to all McAuley College parents and carers and congratulate you on choosing McAuley College for your son or daughter. As a College, we are very cognisant of the fact that we partner with you in the aspirations that you have in the academic formation and wellbeing of your sons and daughters. With McAuley College being in its inaugural year, we have a unique opportunity to establish a culture that will best meet the needs of our students. During the first few weeks, the College has been involved in defining and establishing aspects of our College spirituality and expectations. The students have been actively involved in this process.

### **Prayer at McAuley College**

As a Catholic school, McAuley College looks to educate the whole person. This includes inviting students to consider the spiritual dimension of their lives. The first Religious Education unit has focussed on various forms of prayer and the role that prayer plays in building a relationship with God and in building unity amongst the community. As part of this process, the College has developed a formula that is used to conclude each prayer at the College. The formula draws on central guiding elements of the College as a Catholic school in the Mercy tradition. The formula includes a statement from the prayer leader and a response from the community. It is as follows:

<i>Prayer leader:</i>	<i>Catherine McAuley</i>
<i>All respond:</i>	<i>Guide us</i>
<i>Prayer leader:</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
<i>All respond:</i>	<i>Be with us</i>
<i>Prayer leader:</i>	<i>Believe, Learn, Serve</i>
<i>All respond:</i>	<i>Inspire us</i>

All members of the College are invited to join in this prayer whenever we pray as a community.

I encourage all parents and carers to spend a few moments perusing the College website. Under the tab labelled [BELIEVE](#) you will find a brief overview of the College's Religious Education Program, Religious Life of the College, our Mercy traditions and our Theme for 2017 '*Blessed be the boots that carry us to action for mercy's sake in our world*'.

### **Keeping it REAL at McAuley College**

McAuley College has adopted a school wide Positive Behaviours for Learning framework as its approach to assisting students to develop productive behaviours for their learning and wellbeing. These productive behaviours have been summarised by the statement of 'Keeping it REAL at McAuley'. REAL is an acronym for the following:

- R**espect
- E**xcellence
- A**ct Responsibly
- L**ive with integrity

The staff and students of the College have been engaged in defining the productive behaviours that will promote these values across the College. We will summarise these behaviours in a matrix that will be published and explicitly taught to the students to assist them in developing their academic abilities and wellbeing. Further details regarding the College's school wide Positive Behaviours for Learning framework can be found on the College website under the [PASTORAL CARE](#) tab. A very cool rap by some of our Year 7 students that promotes 'Keeping it REAL at McAuley' can be found on the [College Facebook site](#).

I very much look forward to our College community celebrating our Inaugural Commencement Mass next week. This term the College will also gather for an Ash Wednesday liturgy as well as engage with Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal.

May God bless you and your family.

**David Harris**

**APRE**

## SPORTS NEWS:

Term One provides a busy start to the sporting year with a number of carnivals, gala days and trials available for students to participate in across a variety of Sports.

### Swimming Carnival

Permission letters were sent home earlier this week outlining requirements for the day, including the proposed schedule, uniform expectations and transport details for the afternoon. We hope that students embrace the opportunity to further develop friendships with their peers in this new and exciting aspect of College life. For this reason, we encourage all students to participate and share in the McAuley College team spirit.

Please refer to the Student Diary for information around appropriate swimming apparel for the carnival and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or queries.

### SECA Sport

Commencing in Term Two, students will participate in SECA (South East Colleges Association) Sports, where they will have an opportunity to play against teams from other Catholic Colleges within the region. This week, we spoke about possible Sport offerings and in the coming weeks, further information will be presented to parents and students. This sporting activity will be a compulsory part of the Thursday afternoon timetable and provides an alternate avenue for learning that the students quite often look forward to all week.

On Thursday 2 March, SECA will also host an OzTag Gala Day, where girls in Year 7 are invited to compete against teams from a number of local Catholic Colleges. The carnival will be held at Bill Norris Oval in Beenleigh. At least 12 students will be required to ensure we take a competitive team and a number of girls have already expressed interest. This carnival will take place during school hours and is a one off event. Students do not need to have any previous experience playing OzTag as we will look for opportunities to incorporate some training in the weeks leading up to the event. Further information will be provided for those students who wish to participate.

### School Sport

On Monday you would have received a letter outlining Thursday School Sport options for Term One. This week saw the commencement of the program with our first visit to the pool in preparation for our swimming carnival next week. We will continue this into Week Four (4) and then move into a rotational program where students will have an opportunity to participate in each of the three chosen sports. A reminder that students are able to wear their Sports uniform to and from school on a Thursday and must ensure they have their bucket hat. Please ensure students are bringing a drink bottle and sunscreen given the temperature and UV rating associated with this time of year.

### Upcoming Pacific Rim Trials

Please see information below regarding upcoming Pacific Rim trials.

**Nominations are due by 3pm on those dates listed on the following page.**

Please be advised of the following age divisions;

- 11 years            born 2006
  - 12 years            born 2005
  - 13 years            born 2004
- 

To nominate, please email [aherron@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:aherron@bne.catholic.edu.au) as soon as possible.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Age/Gender</u>	<u>Trial Date</u>	<u>Trial Location</u>	<u>NOMINATIONS DUE</u>
AFL	13-16yrs GIRLS	No trial	N/A	17.2.17
Cricket	13-16yrs BOYS	No trial	N/A	17.2.17
AFL	13-16yrs BOYS	23.2.17	OWSHS	17.2.17
Netball	13-15yrs GIRLS	23.2.17	Canterbury College	17.2.17
Soccer (Football) Beaudesert Zone	10-12yrs BOYS	28.2.17	Beaudesert SS	17.2.17
AFL	10-12yrs BOYS	6.3.17/7.3.17	Dauth Park	24.2.17
Touch Football Beaudesert Zone	10-12yrs GIRLS	7.3.17	Emmaus College	24.2.17

**What happened at McAuley this week? ...**



**English is Fun at McAuley**

Students in English class have been busy studying about different types of texts. This week they put their knowledge and understanding of text, context and purpose into practice by creating their own texts to present to the class.

Among the presentations were advertisements, a bird's eye view map of the College, a recipe for yummy pizza and even a rap created for "Keeping it Real at McAuley".

**We Adopted a Cop**

It was an exciting day on Monday 6 February when we officially adopted Senior Constable Noel Kerger, who will be known to our community as Senior Constable Noel.

The Adopt-a-Cop program was implemented by the Queensland Police in 1985 to build positive relationships between police and members of the school community.

Welcome to McAuley College we hope we have a long and happy relationship with you.

**We have a turfed oval, how very, very exciting!!!!**

