

newsletter

Principal:

Deidre Young

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Principal's Message

As a new school, I am continually drawn back to the words of our College Vision for Inspiration and direction. The words "*partnership with the local community*" are prevalent as I write this article.

The image of the Year 5 and Year 6 students from All Saints' Primary School Boonah who visited last Friday come to mind. McAuley College hosted a Gala Day to share with the students in Year 5 and Year 6 a little of what is happening at our College and what they can expect when they commence their secondary studies. The Gala Day exposed students to specialist facilities and teachers at McAuley College, as well as giving them the opportunity to experience the McAuley College spirit of excellence and community. A picture can tell a thousand words and I invite you to enjoy a small snapshot of the day to share in the wonderful experience of community that is captured in these images. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the Year 5 and Year 6 students from St Mary's Primary School in the coming weeks.



We are also looking forward to joining members of the Boonah Community at their annual show tomorrow and of course in July, we will be all about the Chocolate Wheel at the St Mary's Community Fete.

Next week, we are most excited about opening the doors of our College to the wider community for our first *Evening Expo*. It will give prospective parents and members of the Scenic Rim the first opportunity to come on site to see our State-of-the-art new facilities and experience what is happening in our curriculum, but most importantly, it is a chance to get a feel for the spirit of McAuley College by meeting the most important people, the staff and students. Remember, you only need to call in for a short time anywhere between 5.00 and 7.00 pm... the coffee van will be here to keep you warm with a nice cuppa whilst you enjoy a tour led by one of our Year 7 students, and like any good gathering, there will be a sausage sizzle!

As we head towards the holidays, I remind parents of the importance of each day of our College calendar, including up to and including the last day of term. It is an expectation that all students are in attendance and I request parents contact the College to discuss any planned absences for this time.

In Mercy,
Deidre Young
Principal

DATE CLAIMERS

Saturday 3 June

Boonah Show

Come and see us there

Tuesday 6 June

Evening Expo

5:00-7:00 PM

Wednesday 7 June

Gala Day for St Mary's
Year 5 Students

Thursday 22 June

Gala Day for St Mary's
Year 6 Students

Friday 23 June

Athletics Carnival
End of Term 2

Monday 10 July

Start of Term 3

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop operates on:
Monday and Tuesday 8:00-10:00
am

Enrolments

We are currently enrolling students
for Year 7 for 2018 and 2019.

If you have a child or know of
someone who would like to have
their child attend McAuley College,
please complete the online
Enrolment Application form or
contact the College for a hardcopy
5542 3000.

BELIEVE... In action

National Reconciliation Week

As a College, we engage with significant national celebrations, anniversaries and days of remembrance. We do this to raise the awareness, and educate our students, about the events and issues that are important to our nation. This past week has been National Reconciliation Week. During our College assembly and Pastoral Care classes, we discussed the role of reconciliation, particularly as it pertains to our nation's past relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and culture. It is important that our students can make informed decisions about their response to reconciliation. This year's theme for National Reconciliation Week is 'Let's take the next steps'. This recognises that true reconciliation is not just about the past, it is also about moving forward. It includes recognition, respect, and equality, understanding others and working together for a better future. These qualities should permeate all relationships.

It is pleasing to experience our Year 7 cohort engage in a meaningful way with the theme of reconciliation. It is important for us, as educators, to continue to have a voice in the lives of our students on matters that relate to morals and values. Many 'voices' vie for the attention and allegiance of young people. Our voice, and indeed your voice as parents, must remain an active guiding moral compass for them as they navigate the challenges of adolescence, self-discovery and as they seek to build meaningful relationships. There is great value in taking steps to regularly engage with your children. Dinner at the table, washing up together and similar such occasions, done regularly, provide opportunities for discussion in a non-threatening way. Whilst at times the outer persona of an adolescent may not present as welcoming or engaging, there is usually a lot of processing going on within. Your positive, encouraging and guiding voice is still very relevant and needed in their life.

Many thanks to all parents for your ongoing support of the College in the education of your child.

David Harris

Assistant Principal – Religious Education

SERVE... In action

Respect

In our assembly time this week, Mr Harris made a detailed presentation to the students around our McAuley College 'Keeping it Real' value of **Respect**. We were reminded that respect manifests in many ways and that respect forms the basis not only of our sense of self, but also the foundation of positive and productive behaviours and relationships.

At McAuley College we encourage our students to develop a strong sense of self-worth, where the individual character and talents of each person are understood and appreciated. When students have a firm respect for their own unique qualities and dignity, they are in a stronger position to take responsibility for their own actions and live with integrity to their own value system. In explicitly teaching these core principles, we work with the students to make more thoughtful and positive decisions in all aspects of College life.

In demonstrating respect in the classroom, students are reminded that the fundamental objective is to create a positive learning environment. To achieve this, each student must first value and take responsibility for their own learning. In turn, each student must also respect the rights of other students in the group to enjoy learning opportunities, without disruption or distraction. Classes at McAuley College regularly involve a mixture of individual work, collaborative activities and teacher-directed presentations. Each of these learning opportunities require the explicit teaching of different skills and different demonstrations of respect from the students.

Respecting the dignity of others also underpins the ability to build positive relationships and a connected College community. In every interaction we have the opportunity to express our respect for others by speaking positively and by demonstrating appropriate and productive behaviours. Students must always be mindful that their words and actions have enormous potential to influence and impact on others in positive ways.

Frassati Day

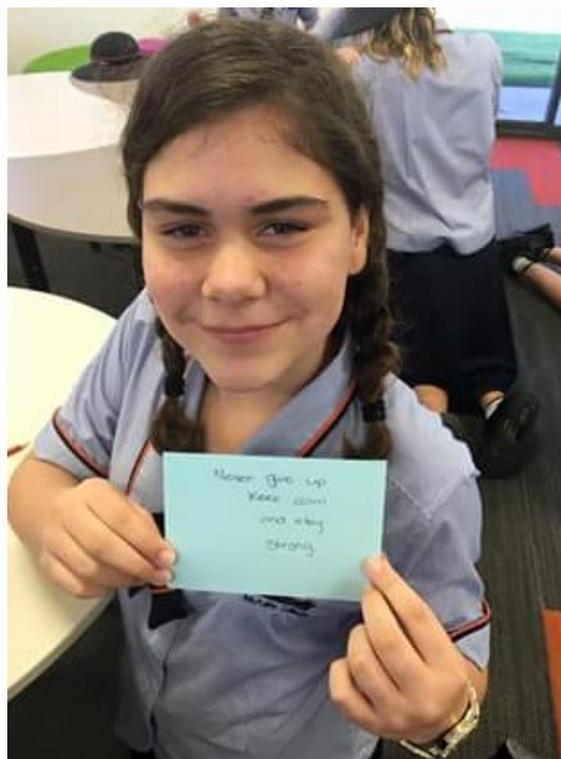
Respect for the dignity of others was also highlighted to us last week, as we celebrated Frassati Day - the second in our series of McAuley College House Celebration Days. The students of Frassati House presented an informative and entertaining role-play, focussing on the key personal qualities and achievements of their house patron, Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Born into an affluent family in Turin, Italy in 1901, Frassati was well-known for his commitment to his Catholic faith and particularly his service to others. Despite his family's wealth and influence, he was an advocate for social change and worked tirelessly for the poor, sick and disadvantaged. Frassati emphasised the importance of respecting the inherent dignity and value of others by saying, "God gives us health so that we may serve the sick."

Inspiring us to also put our faith into action, the students of Frassati House led us in creating inspirational cards to be sent to patients at Prince Alfred Hospital. Each student created a decorative card and wrote a positive and uplifting message inside. We hope that in some small way our cards may brighten the day of someone experiencing the challenges of illness.

We thank the Frassati House students for their leadership on the day and our parents for supporting our College community by assisting with our wonderful morning tea.

Christopher Borg
Year 7 Co-ordinator



LEARN... In action

The last fortnight has been a rather busy time. Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Assistant Principals/Deputy Principals/ Heads of Campus Network day at our Service Centre in Springwood. These are important meetings held three times a year where these members of leadership teams can meet concerning various aspects of their roles in our colleges. This meeting commenced with an address from the Director of School Services South Mr Derek McLean. Derek is responsible for the Brisbane Catholic Education schools in the southern half of the Archdiocese. He was followed by Dr Doug Ashleigh, our Deputy Executive Director, who discussed learning and teaching with the gathering.

We also focused on our Catholic Identity, data analysis, received a Senior Schooling update and then worked collaboratively with other schools on our school critical challenges for this year. We concluded the day with a forum style questions and answer sessions.

Friday we hosted the Year 5 and 6 students from All Saints School at Boonah. It was most enjoyable being able to engage with these students through a Science experiment in our iCube.

Wednesday of this week I travelled to St John's Anglican College in Forest Lake with our Teacher Librarian Mrs Melanie Burr and the four students to compete in the Reader's Cup. Congratulations to Anna Brandon, Caitlin Moore, Joel Mugridge, Gabriel Wilson and Abi Henry who competed against other schools in this region for the Reader's Cup. For our first attempt, we came 11th in a field of 22 teams. The competition requires the students to read five novels and then as a team answer a series of detailed questions associated with the characters, stories and themes of each of the books. It was a challenging task and our students eloquently rose to meet it.

These activities do not just happen. Lots of time and effort are invested in preparing for these events, especially to ensure all members of the team have had sufficient time to read and comprehend the novels before competition day. Thank you to Mrs Burr for all her hard work in preparing the team for this year's competition.

And finally yesterday I attended the Senior Leaders' Forum with Mrs Young. Four Senior Leaders Forums have been scheduled for this year to assist our secondary and P-12 colleges to prepare for the new Senior Education and Tertiary Entrance System that comes into effect in January 2019. Although it will be a couple of years after this date when our first students will enter this new system, there is a need for us to have a detailed understanding of how the new system will operate so we can prepare our curriculum, pedagogy and procedures well in advance. This will allow a seamless transition from Year 10 to 11 when our foundation students enter Year 11 in 2021.

Semester One Reporting

Teaching staff have begun preparing Semester One reports for our students. These reports will be in a different format from the Term One Progress Report. For semester reporting students will receive an Overall Achievement on a 15-point scale from A+ to E- as well as an effort rating on a four-point scale. Student will also receive a subject specific comment for each subject they have studied this semester. Beneath each subject will be printed a Cohort Report on a 5-point scale. The purpose of the cohort report is to give an indication of where the student sits within the class of students studying the subject.

Semester One reports will be published to the Parent Portal at the end of the term. If you are yet to access the Parent Portal, or you are having difficulty logging on, instructions for accessing the Parent Portal can be found on the College website under the Policies tab, or by [clicking here](#). If you are still having difficulty after accessing this document please make contact with the College for assistance.

Sadly both my beloved Queensland Reds have come to the end of their seasons, and the Queensland Maroons had an unpleasant start to the State of Origin series. I'm hopeful the Maroons will regroup for the return match in NSW over the holidays, and I'll just have to wait for next year for the Reds to return to their form.

Have a great fortnight.

Michael Darcy
Deputy Principal





eCentre News

Reader's Cup

Another first for McAuley College! Our enthusiastic team of readers attended the competition at St John Anglican College in Forest Lake on Wednesday. Our team had committed to read the five allocated books over the last couple of months. Twenty-two teams from various schools participated in the competition. I am proud to report that our students represented the College beautifully and supported each other as a team despite the difficulty of the questions! The competition was by no means easy – with varying levels of complexity (many answers required a fantastic retention of information!). I would like to congratulate the team on their effort and excellence. Like them, I can't wait for next year!



Mel Burr

UNIFORM REMINDERS

As we head into winter, I remind parents of our winter options.

For our girls, they have the option of adding some navy tights with their formal uniform, along with the College pullover. The navy tights are available from the Uniform Shop.

For our boys, navy long pants have arrived at the Uniform Shop. So, boys can wear these College navy long pants as part of their formal uniform, with the College pullover.

The College is just finalising the design of our College blazer. This is not a compulsory uniform item for our Year 7 students but an option if your child requires further items to add warmth.

Don't forget, to add extra warmth, students can wear singlets or thermal items, as long as these are not visible.

Mrs Young, Principal

SPORTS NEWS

SECA Cross Country

Last Wednesday 24 May, the McAuley College Cross Country team travelled to Everton Park to compete in our first SECA Cross Country Carnival. It was a great day, with perfect conditions for competition. All students gave their absolute best, striving for excellence and representing the College with pride. Special congratulations to Anna Brandon and Harry O'Reilly who finished in the top ten of their respective races. A highlight of the day was the annual Tug-of-War championship, with representatives from each Age Group invited to represent their College. Given our small numbers, our entire team participated with assistance from two Carmel College seniors. It soon became evident to the SECA community that while we are small in number, we were big in heart as we moved through the rounds making it all the way to the Grand Final. Perhaps the greatest surprise came at the end of the day when we were announced overall percentage winners for the carnival. It was another true demonstration of McAuley College spirit, an excellent day for all involved and another proud moment for our community.



Music at McAuley

Establishing the Instrumental Program thus far has been such an exciting process, made even more exciting due to the enthusiasm of the students. Although a relatively slow start, we have some exciting updates:

Choir

The Choir has been privileged enough to sing at a number of school liturgies and events so far, including mass at St Mary's, the Mother's Day liturgy, and our Anzac Day service. With an ensemble of 10 students, the College Choir has also courageously entered into the Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival (QCMF). Held in August, QCMF is one of the major Music competitions in Queensland, with many schools travelling to compete. It is an exciting opportunity for our Choir, and, despite having only been rehearsing officially since the start of the term, the students are eager to be working towards something so significant. It is also a fantastic opportunity for the Choir to see performances from more established Choirs.

We will be using the Expo Evening as an opportunity to run an open rehearsal to continue working towards QCMF. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the students within their vocal ability and to work with them to create such a solid sound. I am proud of the progress the Choir has made so far and look forward to walking this musical road with the students.

Instrumental Lessons

It is with great pleasure McAuley College can now offer piano lessons with Joanna Funk from the start of Term Three. We are finalizing arrangements for a guitar and strings teacher. Instrumental lessons will be 30 minutes in duration and will run during school time. Piano lessons will be \$30 per lesson. Within lessons, students will be given performance opportunities as well as the opportunity to complete exams, if they wish.



We are in the process of organising a time to introduce Joanna to McAuley College students with taste tester lessons. In doing so, students will get some exposure to instrumental lessons and what is on offer. It is an exciting opportunity for all students to participate in. Joanna is an incredibly accomplished musician and teacher and we look forward to building a strong instrumental program with her.



McAuley's Got Talent!

As an end of term treat, students are invited to participate in McAuley's Got Talent! Students have been encouraged to think outside the box for participation ideas as we would truly love as many students involved as possible. Students will be treated to special performances as well as a guest judge. House points will be awarded for participation. It will be a fantastic event as we move towards the end of the term.

Megan Field, Music Coordinator

Thoughts from the Guidance Counsellor

Raising Resilient Teenagers

Resilience is a term I am sure you have heard at some stage, but what exactly does 'resilience' mean and why is it important. Building resilience can help young people to cope with stress, and to manage feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. According to the Australian parenting website (www.raisingchildren.net.au), resilient young people are better able to deal with difficult situations, in that they tend to 'bounce back' when things go wrong, and are able to persist when tasks or situations become challenging for them. Of course, even the most resilient among us have times when it all gets too much, and we need additional support to cope. Young people have different levels of resilience, and the good news is it can be changed and strengthened at any age.

According to Psychologist Karen Young at www.heysigmund.com, where the science of psychology meets the art of being human, building small humans into healthy, thriving big ones isn't about clearing adversity out of their way. A little bit of stress is life-giving and helps them to develop the skills they need to flourish. Strengthening them towards healthy living is about nurturing within them the strategies to deal with that adversity. Next week, I look forward to sharing tips from Karen Young on how to build resilient young people.

I remind parents and students that I am here each Monday and Tuesday, and every alternate Friday.

Kym Houston, Guidance Counsellor



Welcome All Saints'

