



newsletter

Principal:

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Principal's Message

Issue 4: 10 March 2017

DATE CLAIMERS

Friday 17 March

'Bullying No Way' Day

St Patrick's Day

Monday 20 March

Mackillop House Celebration

Day

Tuesday 21 March

5:30–7:00 pm Meet and

Greet Evening for Parents and

Information Evening

Harmony Day

Friday 31 March

Last Day of Term One

11.00 am Easter Liturgy

1.00 pm Inaugural Cross

Country

And so, from the start of next week, we officially say farewell to our temporary office in Brisbane Street, and take up full residence at McAuley College. This sees the last of our four major buildings established as part of Stage One, with rumours that Fisher's Paddock (our oval) is very close to being handed over to the College, as well. Whilst we will acknowledge the many who played a huge part in the successful opening of McAuley College at the official opening and blessing in Term Two, I take this time to thank in particular our foreman, Luke Sullivan. As part of the Glenlea team of builders, we have been so grateful for the never-ending and ongoing support of Luke through each stage of the building process, and in particular, this very challenging time of completing the build, whilst sharing the site with the staff and students. There has never been any doubt that the community of McAuley College were always the priority!

The Catherine McAuley Administration Centre will be operational from Monday. This means that parents and visitors will now enter the College grounds via the main office reception. This will also work as the Student Reception, and students will be required to sign in or out here, if they arrive late or leave early. We also have bells... which at this stage, I am sure your sons or daughters have told you sound a little like being at a train station... and so we hope to personalise these more in the near future.

All in all, with three weeks remaining, we are certainly rejoicing in the many positive things that have happened in our community in our first term. Today, we have a team of swimmers representing the College at the Interschool SECA Swimming Carnival. A great chance for our students to experience competing for their College in this larger arena. I am extremely proud of the McAuley College Spirit already evident in our College, and developing as part of our culture, where our students are prepared to be involved and to give their best and challenge themselves to exceed beyond their potential.

This week we celebrated International Women's Day with Mrs Parkins, Mrs Heit and Bronagh Nally representing the College on Monday at the Business Women's IWD breakfast. As well, on the Wednesday, the female staff were treated to a yummy cake provided by Mr Darcy, Mr Harris and Mr Borg to mark this important day.



Finally, as I round off, and I see Mrs Field, busy preparing for Choir at first break, I am amazed at the wonderful opportunities for our students at McAuley College. I also love that we have parents who are actively engaged and willing to be part of the journey with us. For this reason, I remind parents that we will celebrate our Easter Liturgy on the final day of term, Friday 31 March at 11.30 am. This will be held at the College, followed by the McAuley College Inaugural Cross Country, gathering at 1.00 pm for a 1.30 pm start. The Cross Country will be run at the Beaudesert Show Grounds. I am hoping you can join us for one or both of these occasions.

Enjoy your weekend, as the next two weeks again will embrace much fun and excitement at McAuley College with our 'No Way Bullying' day on Friday 17 March and our first celebration day for MacKillop House on Monday 20 March.

Deidre Young
Principal

BELIEVE... In action

Lenten Appeal

The College has commenced its Lenten Appeal joining Caritas Australia's Middle East Crisis Appeal. The students should have by now sought out parents to sponsor them, in order to raise money for the Syrian refugees. The notion of generosity is a traditional Lenten observance and also assists in developing a sense of solidarity with people in great need. Each student at McAuley College has a sponsorship sheet for family and friends to sponsor them in completing small jobs in order to raise money for the appeal. As previously mentioned, the emphasis is on building a sense of solidarity through giving of their time and energy to assist those in need, specifically the refugees of Syria. The amount of sponsorship is up to the family and not the primary focus of the appeal. Please assist your son/daughter in this appeal.

College pick-up and drop off

The College is very fortunate to have ample parking for parents as well as a designated place for bus and car pickup. Pick up and drop off times have been operating very smoothly and ensures the safety of our students. Last week the Caltex Service Station opened at the bottom of Oakland Way. In order to maintain the supervision and care of students, students have been informed that they are **not to arrange to be picked up at the Caltex service station**.

Bully No Way Day

Next Friday, 17 March, the College will join schools from across the country in celebrating 'Bully No Way Day'. The theme for our College stance against bullying is 'McAuley Colleges makes a REAL stand against bullying'. REAL is an acronym for **R**espect, **E**xcellence, **A**cting responsibly and **L**iving with integrity. These key messages form the basis for the College's school wide positive behaviour policy. On 17 March, the College will hold an assembly to promote the role that we all play in building a positive and supportive community as well as stressing that stamping out bullying is the responsibility of all. Mrs Kym Houston, the College Guidance Counsellor, will develop an information leaflet for students to take home on that Friday. Please take the time to go over the contents of the leaflet with your son/daughter.

Resilience as we approach the end of term

As we conclude Week 7 of Term One it is common for Year 7 students to start to feel very tired. Term One with all of its changes can be a very challenging time that requires a significant amount of energy. As a College we will remind the students of the need to develop resilience and to continue to invest in their schooling and friendships. We will also discuss the need to keep challenges in perspective. Parents may assist their son/daughter in meeting the challenges of the final three (3) weeks of term by ensuring that they are getting the required sleep and by trying to limit the amount of additional activities that their son/daughter commits to during this time. Please also assist your son/daughter in maintaining a strong attendance record as the term draws to a close. Students will work through to the **final day of the term which is Friday 31 March**. The final day will also include the College Cross Country. The students of McAuley College currently have an average attendance rate of 95.4%, with **many students having 100% attendance**. This is a very pleasing result and I commend and thank parents for your role in assisting your son/daughter in maximising their attendance.

Many thanks to all parents for your ongoing support of the College and the education of your child. May God bless you and your family.

David Harris
APRE

LEARN... In action

Progress Reports

As we come to the end of Week 7 teachers are in the process of gathering evidence of learning through a range of activities during lessons. This evidence will be used to prepare Progress Reports for each student for the end of the term.

Schools provide Term One Progress Reports to inform parents of their child's progress through the first term of the year. These are not academic reports. That is, students are not awarded an overall achievement for each of the subjects they're studying. Academic reports are provided at the end of each semester when teachers have gathered more detailed evidence of learning and report this evidence against syllabus standards. When academic reports are published, students are awarded a level of achievement on a 15 point A+ to E- scale. In progress reports student progress in a range of areas is reported on a 4-point scale – Consistently (C), Generally (G), Sometimes (S) and Rarely (R) – for each subject. At McAuley College we report against the four aspects of our **Keeping it R.E.A.L at McAuley**. These positive behaviours for learning include:

- Respect
- Excellence
- Act Responsibly
- Live with Integrity

There will also be the option for teachers to request an interview with parents. Parents will also be able to request interviews with their son or daughter's teachers through the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) software which will be available on the parent Portal by the end of this term.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Our first Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday 24 April in the Ellen Whitty Centre from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. Interviews will be 10 minutes in length and parents will have the opportunity to meet with each of their son or daughter's teachers. Parents will be able to make interviews using the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) software that will be accessible via the College's Parent Portal once it is rolled out later this month. Once opened, parents will have the opportunity to make interview appointments until Friday 21 April.

With the arrival of March, traditionally the start of autumn, along with the cooler weather we also enjoy the arrival of the NRL and Super Rugby competitions. I hope your favourite team has performed well thus far in the season. I continue to live in hope of a Queensland Reds Super Rugby victory, but their current performance doesn't bode well for a top four finish.

Have a great fortnight and Go the Reds!

Michael Darcy
Deputy Principal

SPORTS NEWS:

As we approach the end of the Term One, there are still a variety of sporting opportunities for students where they are able to improve their skills, increase their confidence and have some fun with friends.

SECA Sport

This week students nominated for SECA sport which will take place on Thursday afternoons across a number of weeks in Term Two and Three. McAuley College will be nominating teams in boys and girls touch football, netball and chess. More information will be provided about SECA sport within the coming weeks and there will be updates available on the SECA website throughout the competition; <http://seca.sportzvault.com/>.

Last Thursday 2 March, a group of 11 girls participated in the SECA OzTag Gala Day at Bill Norris Oval, Beenleigh. It was a very hot day with some tough competition, but our girls demonstrated their McAuley College spirit and played with high intensity, enthusiasm and the upmost integrity throughout the day. Upon our arrival at the carnival, we were officially welcomed by SECA President Desley Armitage and our girls along with Mrs Young were also invited to present the winning trophies at the end of the carnival, which was a great honour.



OzTag girls and Mrs Young enjoying some shade and a cool drink



McAuley College students congratulating the carnival winners

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is celebrated on Tuesday 21 March 2017, where we embrace Australian cultural diversity and promote inclusivity. This year, we hope to raise some awareness about this special day by holding an Indigenous Games Day during first break on Thursday 23 March, with students invited to participate in some traditional games and activities. These games will promote physical activity and help develop a greater understanding of cultural diversity through action.

School Sport

Students have been participating in European Handball, TBall and OzTag as part of the Thursday afternoon sporting program. The staff have been particularly impressed by student enthusiasm, willingness to challenge themselves and the overall supportive nature in which they are communicating with their peers during this time.

Morning Training

Congratulations to those students who have attended morning training sessions. Each week we have had 10 to 12 participants and we hope to continue this trend in the weeks to come. Morning training will continue for the remainder of the term, except for the last day, Friday 31 March, when the Cross-Country Carnival will be held. Special thank you must go out to those parents and families who have donated breakfast for our students to share after training.

All smiles before the first ever morning training



Breakfast with friends

Cross Country

The Inaugural McAuley College Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday 31 March at Beaudesert Showgrounds, commencing at 1:30pm. Students will move to the showgrounds by bus and commence the 3km run, where we encourage everyone to participate and earn points for their house while enjoying their last day of an exciting term with peers. We invite parents to join us for the afternoon and look forward to another great carnival with the College community. Further information will be made available in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Pacific Rim Trials

An updated list of Pacific District sporting trials can be found on the South Coast website; <https://southcoastschoolsport.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/pacific%20rim/2017-pacific-district-trial-information-south-coast-website-current-as-of-6-03-2017.pdf>

Congratulations to Ashlee Challis who has been selected in the Pacific Rim District team for netball. We wish Ashlee all the best with her upcoming training and competitions.

Mrs Amy Richards
Sports Coordinator

BREAKING NEWS

We are a little bit excited this afternoon ... Our swimmers arrived home with the SECA Sport Swimming Percentage Winners trophy. Well done to the whole team who represented our college so well.

A special mention to Anna Brandon who received the runner Up Age Champion Under 12 Girls.

Thank you to Mrs Richards for all your hard work and to the bus driver for today, Mr Darcy!

**Planned Absences during Term Time**

Success with learning is best achieved by first turning up... students must be engaged in class each day of the term to benefit fully from the comprehensive and holistic program offered at McAuley College.

For this reason, we ask parents to limit planned absences within term time, and if this is not possible, it would be an expectation that parents communicate this absence by submitting a Request for Absence from school. This form can be requested by emailing sbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au

The purpose of this form is to highlight the importance of each day at school and to ensure students have communicated with their teachers and organised themselves to address work missed.

St Paddy's Day Dinner

Do you enjoy good food, friends and a great social evening? Then join us at the St Mary's Parish Dinner as we celebrate the one day of the year when everyone is Irish – St Patrick's Day.

The night will be a fun filled affair with displays of Irish dancing, songs by Achoired Taste and a sing-along. There are prizes for best dressed Man, Woman and Child so be sure to get into the spirit of the night and bring out your inner Leprechaun!

This fabulous evening will be held in Gallagher Hall, St Mary's starting at 6.30 pm. A delicious two course meal of fish or roast beef (alternate drop) followed by apple crumble or sticky date pudding will be served and a bar will be operating.

Tickets cost:

- Adult \$45.00
- Youth (13-18 years) \$30.00
- Child \$15.00 (Spaghetti Bolognaise & ice cream for dessert.)

Tickets are online at www.trybooking.com. Enter **St Paddy's** in the event search and the date of 17/3/17. Preferably people will organise a table of ten and book an entire table but you can book less than 10 seats at a table then share with whoever else also books.

