



newsletter

Principal's Message

Issue 5: 23 March 2017

DATE CLAIMERS

Friday 31 March

Last Day of Term One
11.35 am Easter Liturgy
1.00 pm Inaugural Cross
Country

Tuesday 18 April

First day of Term Two
Commencing at normal time of
8:40 am

Friday 21 April

ANZAC Day Memorial Service
12:15 pm

Monday 24 April

Parent Teacher Interview
3:30 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday 25 April

Public Holiday
ANZAC Day Memorial Parade

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

at

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday and Tuesday each
week between
8:00am and 10:00am



It is hard to know where to start this fortnight. I am amazed that a College with such a small student body can be so action packed... March is certainly proving to be a big month at McAuley College. In the last week, we have engaged in our "Bullying No Way" day on Friday 17 March. Students explored different forms of bullying through a range of role plays presented by our staff. It was great to hear the many suggestions and strategies that our students knew to combat bullying within our community and keep it REAL! To celebrate this unity, the staff prepared a wonderful 'orange' feast to enjoy in first break.



Then, on Monday, it was our first Celebration Day for MacKillop, timed to coincide with the feast day of St Joseph, and foundation day for the Josephite Sisters. MacKillop Pastoral Care group, under the direction of their teachers Mrs Field, Mr Borg and Mrs Heit, presented a wonderful prayer and outline of Saint Mary MacKillop's life. They talked as well about their value of LOVE and how this related to their patron. The highlight of the day, before we, of course, had a 'green' feast, was the making of cuddle hearts for Mater Mothers. Staff and students sewed hearts that will help mothers and their babies in the neo-natal ward. It was an honour to be part of this activity that focussed on serving people in our wider community, and echoed so clearly the words of Mary MacKillop, who said, "Never see a need without doing something about it".





Finally, on Tuesday, we acknowledged Harmony Day with a prayer in Pastoral Care. The students also enjoyed some lunchtime activities that incorporated Indigenous games later in the week. Tuesday finished off with our inaugural Meet and Greet with our parents followed by an information evening.



To cap off a busy time, on Wednesday, our highlight, after immunisation, was the inaugural visit of our Executive Director, Miss Pam Betts and the Director of Administrative Services, Mr Michael Kearney. What a pleasure to welcome Pam and Michael to our College. They were certainly most impressed with what they saw, but more so, in what they heard and experienced in speaking with the students. Happy learners... engaged students... in a friendly and welcoming community! How proud I was to introduce (and show off) the staff and students of McAuley College. Miss Betts was an instrumental part of the feasibility study many years ago for McAuley College, and Mr Kearney has provided great assistance more recently with the purchase of our College bus... so it was lovely for them to see the fruits of their support.



A reminder that as we move into our final week, it is a clear expectation that all students attend each day of school, including and up to the last day of Friday 31 March. All school days are well planned and are an integral part of our learning and teaching program. I hope many parents can join us for the final day including our Easter Liturgy and Cross Country, details and times are noted elsewhere in the newsletter.

In Mercy

Deidre Young
Principal

BELIEVE... In action

Is your child resilient?

We will often raise the topic of resilience with the students of McAuley College. It is one of life's great lessons that is best learnt early. It is the ability to push through difficulty and disappointment, knowing that these difficult moments will either pass or improve. Michael Grose, one of Australia's leading parenting writers, in his recent book 'Spoonfed Generation' writes that resilient kids share four basic skills: autonomy, problem solving, optimism and social connection. Some kids seem to have an innate resilience and can readily meet difficulties face on and move on quickly. My experience as an educator and parent tells me that most kids need the adults in their life to assist them in building resilience.

Grose notes 7 ways that adults often limit opportunities for children in resilience building. These are summarised as:

1. **Fight all their battles for them.** There's nothing wrong with going in to bat when kids struggle with difficulty inside or outside school, but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.
2. **Make their problem, your problem.** Sometimes parents take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out. We put jumpers on them even when they don't feel the cold or wake them in the morning when they are capable of getting themselves up.
3. **Give kids too much voice.** It is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations or cannot see the long term impact of decisions. Internet access times and supervision is an example of this.
4. **Put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform.** Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will too easily meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety. Sometimes less is better in regards to extra-curricular activities.

5. **Let kids give in too easily.** Resilient learners link success with effort. They don't give up because they don't like a teacher, when they are too tired or when confronted with complex activities. Similarly, they don't bail out of a sporting team halfway through the season because they are not winning.
6. **Neglect to develop independence.** Start early and promote a broad skillset so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.
7. **Rescue kids from challenging or stressful situations.** Kids will often be put in situations outside their comfort zone for a period. For instance, giving a talk or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with, so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance. *Adapted from Spoonfed Generation by Michael Grose.*

Two of the **Productive Behaviours 4 Learning** that we emphasise at McAuley College are *Act Responsibly* and *Excellence*. These speak to the students taking ownership of the challenges that they face, with due recognition of their stage of development. The development of resilience is part of building a growth mindset and seeking improvement as students progress through their schooling. The transition into secondary schooling is a prime opportunity for building resilience and I thank all parents for your role in ensuring that this has, in the main, been a very productive transition.

Developing a spirit of generosity

Our contribution to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten appeal draws to a close this coming week. This appeal has been an opportunity for our students to build a sense of solidarity with those that are struggling to meet even the most basic of needs. This sense of being generous contributors to society in whatever way we can is an important lesson. The Caritas Appeal is a concrete way that students can consider their blessings and their relative strong quality of life and seek to assist those less fortunate. Please continue to encourage your child to be generous in their sponsorship through to the end of term.

You are invited to join the College for our Easter liturgy on Friday 31 March, 11:35 am at the College. This short liturgy will be followed by the College cross country.

Many thanks to all parents for your ongoing support of the College in the education of your child. May God bless you and your family over the upcoming break and may you experience the grace and hope of Easter as we celebrate the love of God for us demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

David Harris

Assistant Principal – Religious Education

LEARN... In action

Progress Reports

As I mentioned in my previous article, teachers are in the process of preparing Term One Progress Reports for our students. For Term One we are reporting student progress against the four aspects of our **Keeping it REAL at McAuley** student behaviour support document. These aspects are:

- **Respect**
- **Excellence**
- **Act Responsibly**
- **Live with Integrity**

Each of these aspects will be reported using a four-point scale – Consistently (C), Generally (G), Sometimes (S) and Rarely (R) – for each subject. There is also the option for teachers to request an interview with parents. Parents will also be able to request an interview with teachers via the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) software that is available on our College Parent Portal.

Term One Progress Reports will be available on our Parent Portal after 3:00pm on Friday 31 March.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Our first Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday 24 April from 3:30pm to 6:00pm, in the Ellen Whitty Centre. 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. PTO will be opened for use after 3:00pm on Friday 31 March and remain open for parents to make an appointment by Friday 21 April 3:00pm.

Parent Information Evening

Thank you to all our parents who made it to our first Parent Information Evening on Tuesday evening. Unfortunately, the ongoing inclement weather that resulted in flooding in several areas and prevented a number of families from attending. To assist families who could not attend I have placed a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation and the *Student One-to-One Computer Program: 2017* booklet on the Parent Portal. Hardcopies of the One-to-One booklet, *ICLT Resources Access Consent Form – Students* and *Student and Parent Notebook Computer Registration Form* have also been sent home with students.

Parent Portal

Our Parent Portal is now available from a link on the College website. The Parent Portal forms part of the central communication hub of the College and will allow parents to remain informed of events happening. It also allows access to permission notes, letters and various documents published by the College.

To access the Parent Portal simply click on the "Parent Portal" icon on the College webpage and follow the instructions to log in. You will need to use the same email address you have provided to the College. It is important to log on to the Parent Portal before the end of term, as we will be publishing Term One Progress Reports after 3:00pm next Friday. The Parent Portal is also where you will find the Parent Teacher Online (PTO) software that is needed to book interviews with teachers on Monday 24 April.

If you have any questions about accessing the Parent Portal please do not hesitate to contact the College during our business hours for assistance.

The New Queensland Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance System

On Wednesday this week I attended the BCE Senior Leaders Forum at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The purpose of this forum was to bring together members of Leadership Teams in secondary schools in the Brisbane Catholic Archdiocese including both BCE schools and Religious Institute (RI) schools. The focus of the day was the new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance System scheduled for introduction in Queensland in January 2019.

Senior Education Officers from BCE gave presentations about the progress of syllabus development, external assessment trials and strategies that our system is developing to ensure a smooth transition to the new system. There were also keynote speakers from New South Wales who presented information and insights into the operation of external examination systems and recommendations as to how we prepare for the new system's introduction and advice to managing curriculum and pastoral care once the system is implemented.

The day was very informative and it was great to catch up with colleagues from other BCE and RI colleges to discuss the changes and see where they are at with the implementation of the new system. It is also reassuring to know that BCE is well underway in preparation for the new system and they are developing various support structures to assist schools with this transition. There will be further forums throughout the year to further keep us up to date with developments from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

I hope the recent rain has been of benefit, and the relief from the hot weather has been greatly appreciated. With next week being the last week of term we are all looking forward to the two-week Easter break. Have a great week and enjoy the school holidays. Happy Easter.

Michael Darcy
Deputy Principal

SPORTS NEWS:

As we approach the end of Term One, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students of McAuley College on their participation and sportsmanship throughout the term. It has been a privilege to share in the student excitement and watch them as they enthusiastically embraced each of the opportunities made available. I would also like to thank the many parents who have provided assistance, whether volunteering at our carnivals, providing breakfast for morning training or driving the students to school for our early morning starts; your support is very much appreciated.

SECA Swimming

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, on Friday 17 March a team of swimmers competed in the SECA Swimming Carnival held at Chandler Aquatic Centre. The team was beaming with excitement as McAuley College were announced the percentage trophy winners. Special congratulations must also go to Anna Brandon who was awarded Runner Up Age Champion for the 12 Years Girls category. What an absolute pleasure it was to be part of such a special moment in the McAuley College history. Well done to those wonderful representatives who flew the McAuley College flag with pride.



Our first trophy



So much excitement!!!



Boys warming up



Anna Brandon
 Runner Up Age Champion
 12 Year Girls



Girls warming up

Around the Community

While many of our students are actively involved in sporting events within the school community, a number of students are also participating at varied community organisations around the region.

This week Harry O'Reilly featured in the local newspaper for his involvement in the Carp Competition at Wyaralong Dam over the weekend. Well done to Harry for his efforts in this event.

A number of our female netballers have shown interest in nominating a team in the Tuesday evening competition at the Beaudesert and District Netball Association. This Tuesday 28 March is the last opportunity to nominate, so if there are any students interested, please come and see me as soon as possible.



Holiday Coaching Clinics

The Easter Holidays bring about opportunities for students to be involved in coaching clinics, including Netball (Vicky Wilson), Rugby League (Gold Coast Titans) and Rugby Union (ARU). Further information about each of these offerings has been placed on the Parent Portal if your son or daughter is interested.

School Sport

While the rain and wet weather has provided much relief to many businesses and families around the local community, it has called for a slight change to our Thursday sporting program. Yesterday, students were engaged in an Amazing Race activity, where the theme of Harmony Day was embraced and students participated in traditional activities from countries around the world. This activity was a great way to incorporate multiple learning options and investigate the influences of Sport on a global scale.

Cross Country

The Inaugural McAuley College Cross Country Carnival is scheduled for 1:30pm next Friday 31 March at the Beaudesert Show Grounds. Permission forms were sent home earlier this week with specific information about the afternoon, including a copy of the track map for students to familiarise themselves with prior to the carnival. On Thursday next week, we will have a brief Sports assembly to ensure students know the program for the afternoon. This information has also been placed in the Parent Portal for your convenience. Thank you to the many parents who have already offered to volunteer at the carnival. I look forward to seeing you all there.

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>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries about the nomination process.

Best wishes for a happy and safe Easter Holiday break.

Mrs Amy Richards
Sports Coordinator



Attention Students:

Do you want to be a Baton Bearer at the Commonwealth Games?

McAuley College has been given the opportunity to nominate one person to be considered for a place in the Baton Relay. If you would like to be considered, please complete the attached form by the last Friday of this term (31 March 2017) and email to Mrs Young sbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Uniform Accessory

Parents, we have a range of hair accessories which are approved to wear as part of our College uniform. These can be purchased from the front office at \$4.00 per item. They are sourced locally from a company called *Roses of Blue*.

Mrs Young



Uniform Shop

Trish Robinson, our uniform coordinator, has advised that the winter uniform is now in stock.

The uniform shop trading hours are:

- Monday and Tuesday 8:00-10:00am

Please note that uniforms can be ordered online and delivered to your child.

