

newsletter

Principal:

Deidre Young

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Principal's Message

Issue 8: 5 May 2017

DATE CLAIMERS

**Tuesday 9 May,
Wednesday 10 May
and Thursday 11 May**
NAPLAN

Friday 12 May

Mother's Day
Liturgy and Breakfast
8:00 AM

Farewell Mass for
Fr Michael McKeaten
St Mary's Catholic Church
9:00 AM

Enrolments

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

Interviews will be held on Monday 22, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 May 2017.

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.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mums next Sunday... Mother's Day is a special time and wonderful tradition honouring mothers and celebrating motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers across the world.



Being a relatively new mum, with this being my third Mother's Day, I have certainly gained another level of appreciation for the role of mum in any family. I give thanks each day for my beautiful mum, a strong and determined character who epitomises unconditional love in all her being. I value the gift of love and family values which she has instilled in me and could never find the words to express my absolute gratitude and appreciation for all she means to me. I suppose that is why a day such as Mother's Day is important as it provides us with the opportunity to give the simplest of messages by saying "I love you" and "Thank You". A big hug from my Evie will be the greatest gift I can receive next Sunday or on any day.

I am excited that we can invite our mothers, grandmothers and significant mother figures to a liturgy and breakfast next Friday morning to celebrate and mark this special occasion with our McAuley family. It is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks to the many mums and mother figures who have given us support over the years. An invitation has been included in this newsletter.

Traditionally, the chrysanthemum is given to mothers for Mother's Day as the flower is naturally in season during autumn and of course it ends in the word "mum". So, next Sunday, I hope our mums are dutifully spoilt with love and kisses, along with a nice big bunch of chrysanthemums!

In Mercy,

Deidre Young
Principal

Mum's Are Great!



Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast

We are celebrating our wonderful mothers, grandmothers and women who make a difference by holding a Liturgy and Breakfast in their honour on Friday 12 May, 8:00 AM at the College — please see the attached invitation.

After the celebration our College will proceed to St Mary's Catholic Church where we will attend a farewell Mass for Fr Michael McKeaten who will take up the position of Parish Priest at St Mary's Ipswich. You are very welcome to join us at this Mass which will commence at 9:00 AM.



ANZAC DAY MARCHES... McAuley College represented well!

Congratulations to all staff and students who attended the commemorative services in Beaudesert and Boonah on Tuesday 25 April. This is such a significant day in the story of our nation and one that engenders great pride and mateship. I was thrilled to see the number of staff and students who honoured those men and women who fought for our freedom.

Well done to the local RSL Sub Branches for the fitting ceremonies to mark ANZAC Day in our communities within the Scenic Rim.



Canteen

It has been our endeavour to have the canteen up and operational this term. This has been delayed by the installation of FlexiSchools and delivery of relevant software. We are in the process of finalising this, and hope to have the canteen open in the next week or two.

I thank those parents who have volunteered time to be of assistance in the canteen. We will not be able to support its operation without the assistance of parents and other volunteers in our community. I urge you to consider any time you can donate to providing this facility to our students and of course our families.

BELIEVE... In action

“It was so wonderful how students at McAuley College came up to us, said hello and welcomed us to the College.”

This is certainly high praise of the young men and women of McAuley College. I received this feedback from a couple of recent visitors to the College. The friendliness and welcoming nature of the students made a big impact on our visitors. It is a profound thing for an adolescent boy or girl to approach visitors and be so welcoming of them. It is recognition of the other. It respects the dignity of the other. It is not always found in schools and not often expected from teenagers. That is what adds strength to the feedback received from our visitors. What lies behind the actions described by the visitors to our College?

As a parent and educator, I often reflect on where our students learn such values. As a College, we do frequently speak about respect and recognition of others. Perhaps some of that message has already found a home in the students of McAuley College. However, I am sure that lessons such as these are more likely caught than taught. It is in the modelling that others provide that enables the young men and women of the College to see and value these qualities.

Part of that modelling comes with the vocation of teaching. It is frequently said of teachers that students will remember who you are far more than what you say. It is a privileged position to be in and one that is not lost on the staff of McAuley College.

However, parents remain the first educators of their children. As I write this letter, I am very conscious that next week we celebrate Mother's Day. My mother's loving and self-effacing nature that always recognises the dignity of others continues to inspire me to be a better person. I am sure that in my adolescent years my mother may have spoken to me about respect, however, it is the witness of her life that continues to leave the greatest impression. That is the Gospel in action.

McAuley College is no utopia and our students do not always get it right. Sometimes there is a lot more ego and thoughtlessness than recognition of the other. That is why it is very important that a College such as ours sets high expectations and calls our students to them. That is also why there must be consequences when students choose to not meet the College's expectations and act in a way that does not demonstrate respect. Clear expectations enable the students of McAuley College to learn what behaviour is to be accepted, repeated and valued. This allows them to be their best.

As parents we may not always recognise the qualities in our children. Sometimes we are too close or too aware of their shortcomings. However, comments such as those mentioned above are a great affirmation of the positive partnership that parents and the College share in helping to develop the young women and men in our care.

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

David Harris
Assistant Principal – Religious Education



If your child is absent from school please remember to contact the College before 8:30am. This can be done via the Parent Portal, by phoning 5542 3000 or by emailing sbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au. The College is required to record a reason for each day of absence. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



If your child is not able to be in the **correct uniform** for any reason, please make a notation in their College diary. It is pleasing to note that our students take pride in their uniform and I thank all parents for your care in maintaining this important aspect of our College culture.

LEARNING... In action

NAPLAN

Next week our students will sit their NAPLAN tests. The tests will be held from Tuesday 9 May through to Thursday 11 May. During this time students will sit four tests – Language Conventions (45 minutes) and the Writing Task (40 minutes) on Tuesday; the Reading Task (65 minutes) on Wednesday and the Numeracy tests (with a calculator 50 minutes, and without a calculator 10 minutes) on Thursday. Testing will begin each day at 9:00 AM and conclude before midday. Students will return to normal lessons each day after the tests are complete.

For these tests students will need **2B or HB pencils only, an eraser and a pencil sharpener**. On Thursday they will also need to bring a **calculator** for the first part of the Numeracy testing. All other materials will be provided and as such students won't be permitted to take any other item into the room including a water of bottle.

NAPLAN is an important point-in-time testing that allows us to compare how a student has progressed from the last point in time testing in Year 5. For this reason, we haven't made a big issue of the tests happening next week. Where possible we have attempted to keep the days as normal as possible and following each test we return as quickly as possible to normal lessons. Our focus is on students doing the best they can on each test. The data collected gives us a valuable insight into where our students are with their literacy and numeracy skills, how they've progressed since their last experience of NAPLAN and what we might need to do to modify our pedagogy to support students to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

SECA Sport

Last week the College competed in the first round of SECA Sport. In order to allow our students to compete we have made adjustments to each Thursday's timetable. Students will have two 45 minute lessons followed by a short break before departing for sport from 11:00 AM. As we miss two lessons each week to engage SECA Sport I have developed a lesson rotation for Thursdays. This ensures that the distribution of lessons during the nine rounds of SECA is equivalent to that outside of the SECA season. Each week students are advised through College announcements of the subjects that will run on Thursday. In the event of wet weather, we will run the normal timetable for that Thursday.

Homework

With NAPLAN taking place next week I have written to staff asking that they not give homework to our students this week. This will allow students to relax in the evenings and be more focused on NAPLAN during the day. Teachers will return to setting homework from Monday 15 May.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is the main platform for communicating with our community. It's the place to go to see the College Calendar, Announcements, permission forms and letters. It's also the place to go if you need to inform the College of any change of details, students absences and to access your son or daughter's report cards. If you haven't already had the opportunity to access the portal, or you need to reset your password, please see below for instructions. These instruction can also be found on our Website—About Us, School Policies.

Instructions for Parents for Parent Portal Access – First Time Users and Forgotten Passwords

The following instructions will assist you with either logging on for the first time, or if you have forgotten your password. You will need to log into your school’s Parent Portal in first instance and follow steps 1 through to 6.

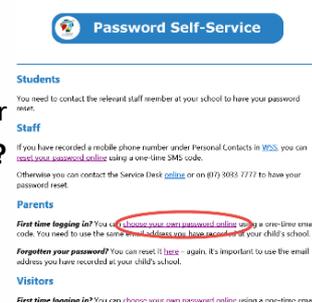
1. After clicking on your school’s Parent Portal link you will be met with a login screen.



2. Select **Brisbane Catholic Education** and select **Forgotten Password/First-Time Login**



3. Under the **Parents** heading there are two titles – **First time logging in?** (this is for parents who have never logged into the parent portal) and **Forgotten your password?** (this is for parents who need to reset their password). Choose whichever applies to you.



4. Enter your personal email address that you have provided to the school and click **Next**.



5. Check your email for a security code and enter the corresponding security code in the screen that follows and click **Next**.



6. Ensure that **Password Reset** option is selected and enter your desired password in both boxes before clicking **Next**.



7. Now that you have set your password you can now login to the Parent Portal.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish our students all the best for their NAPLAN next week, and all of our mothers a very Happy Mother's Day next Sunday.

Have a great fortnight.

Michael Darcy
Deputy Principal



eCentre News

Important Notice

**THERE WILL BE NO HOMEWORK CLUB
NEXT WEEK.**

The eCentre is surely taking shape now! Students have been busily borrowing books and making use of the cool writable tables and furniture. It has been wonderful to see their excitement and energy in the eCentre. They have brainstormed a wall full of ideas to add to the collection and I will spend this term acquiring and accessioning these resources. A couple of things are coming up this term which I would like to draw your attention to:

1. **2017 IEU Literary Competition** - This national competition is open from Year 5 -12. All students are welcome to participate in this competition by either writing a poem or a short story (500-1200 words). The closing date for this competition is **Friday 21st July** and a completed entry form must be attached to the entry. Entry forms are available from the eCentre. There are great prizes to be won in addition to this being a really good way for students to practise their writing skills.
2. **Reader's Cup** – I am looking for a team of four students to take this challenge on this year. The team will read 4-5 nominated novels which they will discuss at a regional competition. This exciting opportunity is great for avid readers and I encourage students to see me with their interest by this Friday please.

Mrs Melanie Burr
Teacher/Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

Based on the success of morning training in Term One, we would like to continue with this activity each Friday morning for the remainder of the year. Throughout Term Two, training will consist of cross country preparation (for the SECA carnival on Wednesday 24 May) followed by some athletics based training. Further information around training will be provided regularly on the Announcements page of the College Portal. Permission forms are available on the Parent Portal.

House Spirit

Throughout Term Two, students will have an opportunity to participate in a 'House Spirit Championship', with games and activities made available during lunch breaks where students can earn points for their house. The games and activities will provide an alternative option for students during lunch, encourage teamwork and embrace the spirit of our House Patrons. Further information will be made available to students next week.

Pacific Rim Trials

On Wednesday 3 May, Anna Brandon and Max Hohl attended the Pacific District Cross Country Trials held at Ormeau Woods State High School. Congratulations to Max and Anna for their efforts on what was a tough track with noteworthy competition. Anna placed 7th overall, earning a spot at the upcoming Regional trials. Well done Anna and best wishes as you prepare for the next level of competition.

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>

During the month of May nominations will be taken for the following sports;

Sport	Age/Gender
Golf	10-19yrs BOY & GIRLS
Rugby League	12yrs GIRLS
AFL	12yrs GIRLS

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries about the nomination process.

Mrs Amy Richards
Sports Coordinator