

newsletter

Principal:

Deidre Young

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Principal's Message **Issue 3: 1 March 2019**

DATE CLAIMERS

Tuesday 5 March

Year 9 Spirituality Day
Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 6 March

Ash Wednesday
Fish and Wedges only
from the Canteen

Friday 8 March

International Women's Day

Tuesday 12 March

Parent Engagement
4:30pm—5:30pm

Wednesday 13 March

SECA Swimming Carnival

Friday 15 March

Bullying No Way Day

Accepting Enrolments for

2020 and 2021

They say a picture paints a million words... and I cannot find a better way to express how our community felt following our Commencement Mass and Opening & Blessing of Stage Two than this picture captures with Marcus and Holly.

On Friday 22 February, we were thrilled to welcome many special invited guests, parents and community members, to join with staff and students to celebrate the start of our 2019 Academic year, as well as give thanks for the wonderful new facilities which had been built as part of our Stage Two.

I include as my article this week, an excerpt from my welcome to those gathered on Friday.

"I thank Most Reverend Bishop Ken Howell, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Brisbane for leading us in mass; which will incorporate the blessing our new buildings completed as part of Stage Two. We are also grateful to the Honourable Linus Power MP, State Member for Logan, who will open our buildings. In 2017, McAuley College welcomed our first students, 36 Year 7 students. Since that time, we have committed to putting on our boots and building a community centred around the values witnessed by the story of Jesus and that of Catherine McAuley.



Boots are a symbol we have chosen as a rural community to remind of us how we are called to be people of action. We follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, and build a legacy around our touchstones of BELIEVE, LEARN and SERVE, through our words and actions, showing we are people of Mercy.

I acknowledge the work of the potter, Jeannie MacDermott, who through her hands shaped the symbol of our boots you see here today... and give thanks that for a short brief time our paths crossed... "May she rest in peace".



At McAuley College, we talk about *EXCELLENCE* in the words of Catherine's... to do our ordinary everyday actions, extraordinarily well. We thank the many who put on their boots and gave of their skills and expertise to complete Stage Two of our buildings.

I acknowledge the Sisters of Mercy who every day are our inspiration, to build on the wonderful legacy they founded of quality Catholic education in the Scenic Rim. We are pleased to welcome Sr Catherine Reuter, Congregation Leader of the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy, and our friends, Sr Mary Lawson, Sr Catharina Robinson and Sr Bernadette Ahearn.



And of course, today, I am so proud of our community; our parents, our staff and our students. Because at the heart they are the reason we build... the reason we put on our boots and the reason we strive for *EXCELLENCE*.

This morning, students will process in with symbols of our story and values... these will include the hand-crafted boots and Mercy Crosses. Boots will be placed in each classroom as part of a Prayer table, and the Mercy Cross will be part of each learning and work space. Today, Bishop Howell will bless these... and for us, they will connect us to the example of Jesus and Catherine, as we work each day to be good and better people."

It was lovely to receive the following message from Sr Catherine Reuter, "It was a pleasure being with the school Community on Friday. Wonderful sense of relationships and the spirit of Mercy has been caught and is being lived. The students were fantastic and living witnesses to hospitality and welcome."





Learning Progress at McAuley College

Following Dr Doug Ashleigh's visit last fortnight, it was wonderful to receive his letter of commendation, congratulating our community on our learning growth across our SMART Goal which focused on the explicit teaching of literacy to advance our results in writing. Whilst there continues to be lots of work to do, it was rewarding to see the growth in our student achievement, and for this to be acknowledged by the Deputy Executive Director.

"I write on behalf of the Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) Leadership Team to extend our collective thanks to you and your team at McAuley for the commitment and focused work evident in responding to your school's learning growth challenge through 2018.

Congratulations to the McAuley College team on the wonderful achievement in Writing during 2018."

Dr Doug Ashleigh

Finally, I thank the many parents who attend our Year 7 Meet and Greet evening on Tuesday 19 February. It was a lovely way to connect again with our newest members of our community, to extend our welcome and enjoy some hospitality, as well as provide some information to ensure our partnership continues to support our young people in Year 7. In particular, it was a great way for our parents to meet with their child's Pastoral Care teacher.



Another big fortnight celebrated at McAuley College... as we enter the second half of our first term.

Yours in Mercy

Deidre Young
Principal

ENROLMENTS 2020 and 2021

Enrolment Interviews commence in early March for
2020 and 2021.

Please complete an application form to avoid disappointment.

BELIEVE...In action

Blessed be the Boots

During our Commence Mass last week, Bishop Howell blessed eight ceramic boots. The boots link with those made at Baggot Street and worn by the Sisters as a symbol of the 'walking nuns'. Catherine and her sisters walked to city hovels, hospitals and thatched cabins, in slum alleys, through snow and mud, any place where people were suffering. Catherine's mercifulness reached out to the edges of her time. Today we are called to the edges and to a willingness to reach out and walk in the shoes of another.

Following the blessing of the boots they were installed into each of the Pastoral Care classes as a symbol to be used in morning prayer. They are a reminder to our students that each day we too are invited to put on our boots and take action in this world. This action in the context of our student's lives includes their striving for excellence in all aspects of their schooling as well as being active contributors to the family and society in which they live.



*‘Blessed be the boots that carry us to action
for Mercy’s sake in our world.’
Catherine McAuley*

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 pickup in the afternoon. Pick up and drop off times have been operating very smoothly and ensures the safety of our students. A reminder that the bus lane is reserved for the buses in the afternoon. The lane may be used for student drop off in the morning.

Parents would be aware that there is a Caltex Service Station and a growing number of shops at the bottom of Oakland Way. In order to maintain the supervision and care of students, please do not arrange for your child to be picked up at the Caltex service station or the shops.

A reminder that Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday 6 March. Parents are welcome to join our Year 7 students at the 9:00am Mass at St Mary's Parish or to join the Year 8 and 9 liturgy at 9:00am at the College.

Thank you to all parents for your commitment to your child's education at McAuley College.

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.

LEARN...In action

At our Whole School Assembly this week I spoke to the students about “driving within their headlights”, a saying my late father often used. Growing up on the Darling Downs driving on country roads at night became a common activity especially during Rugby season. Dad’s words of wisdom were significant when driving on country roads at night avoiding kangaroos and loose cattle. On one night specifically this rang true. We were returning from a rugby game at St George when we came over the top of a crest and in the middle of the road in front of us was a rather large kangaroo. As we had our lights on high beam, and my father was an accomplished driver, thanks to his work in the Queensland Fire Service, he rather skilfully moved his 4WD around the rather nonplussed macropod. Dad’s only comment in the moment was, “That’s why you never drive beyond your headlights.”

This philosophy is also relevant when it comes to completing Evidence of Learning (EoL) tasks through the term. We’re now in Week 5 and all students are involved in completing Evidence of Learning tasks. To ensure they complete these tasks successfully, students need to “drive within their headlights”. They need to maintain focus on the things immediately ahead of them and ensure they complete these EoL tasks first. All students now have copies of their Year Level Evidence of Learning Calendars. Students need to be referring to these documents regularly, weekly as a minimum. Placing the draft and due dates of tasks on calendars and in the student diary will assist students in organising their time, planning and completing tasks on time. This is the best way to present best work and to reduce the stress and anxiety that can accompany completing assessment tasks.

Copies of the EoL Calendars are also available on the Parent Portal. Students have received a hard copy of the same.

Last week we avoided tropical cyclone Oma, but sadly we also missed the rain that accompanies cyclones. Hopefully the tempting clouds and the cooler temperatures will yield some much needed rain in the coming weeks.

Have a great fortnight.

Michael Darcy
Deputy Principal

Coding with Python

It was fourteen (14) lucky students who got to be introduced to coding using python on Saturday 16 February. The four-hour workshop was delivered by expert presenter and engineering student, Harrison Cusack.

I thought that coding with python was a very fun experience, I learnt heaps in just one short day, and the guy who did it was super fun, he would help us if we needed and he would also just give us hints, which I thought was good because it gave us the chance to have a go ourselves instead of just saying that it was too hard. We learnt all sorts of different things including how to make a trivia game. Overall it was a fun filled day as well as an educational day. I would definitely take the opportunity to do it again. Thanks Ava



ASH WEDNESDAY CANTEEN MENU

There will only be Crumbed Fish and Wedges available on Ash Wednesday 6 March from the canteen. The cost will be \$3:00, please order through Flexischools



eCentre News

Homework Club has taken off!

It occurs every Wednesday between 3:00pm-4:00pm.

It is a wonderful opportunity for your child to show excellence in their learning, and provides support for all students from both their peers and teachers to complete some of their homework for the week. Please ensure that if your child is attending homework club that they have their homework to be completed ready with them and are aware of pick up/travel instructions at the end of homework club.



If you have a couple of hours a week, the eCentre needs you! I would appreciate help with covering resources, organisation of resources and some library administrative tasks. Please contact the office or eCentre if you are interested.

SORA App

This is the new and exciting interface which allows students to have access to an extensive library of digital resources free through Brisbane Catholic Education. Students are being shown how to connect to this app on their laptops during library sessions this week and in the next. They are able to use this information to connect similarly on any devices they have at home.

Melanie Burr
Teacher-Librarian

Brisbane Catholic Education
Digital Library
www.tinyurl.com/BCEdigitl

Browse our e-Collections
www.tinyurl.com/eCollections

To Get Started:

1. Download the Sora App
2. Open Sora, ignore 'Find my school' and use I have a setup code. The school setup code is **Brisbanecaau**
3. Sign in using your **BCE username** (eg. jdoe)

ResourceLink
Brisbane Catholic Education



Literacy News



McAULEY COLLEGE EDITING CODES

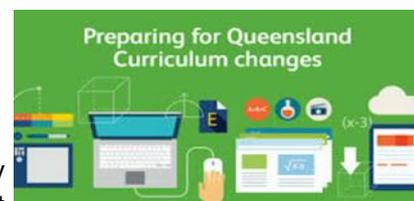
SP	SPELLING	You have spelt this word or these words incorrectly.
T	TENSE	You have not used the correct tense or, the tense in this section is not consistent with other parts of your text.
G	GRAMMAR	This combination of words is inaccurate or does not make sense to the reader.
^	ADD/MISSING WORD	You need to insert a word or words to make this phrase or sentence complete.
SS	SENTENCE STRUCTURE	The organisation of your sentence is inaccurate or could be improved to make your meaning clearer or more coherent (make more sense to the reader).
V	VOCABULARY	You have used this word incorrectly or could choose a more accurate or appropriate word, term or phrase.
P	PUNCTUATION	You have not used correct punctuation. Please check for correct use of capital letters and punctuation marks such as commas, full stops, quotation marks, etc.

Our literacy focus as a College this year remains on writing. We have developed a SMART goal to improve student written literacy and have already been working towards achieving this goal through reflective practice and the use of consistent and explicit teaching strategies. There are several strategies that teachers will implement this year across classes to ensure consistent improvement and growth in student writing. One of these strategies for all our students is for them to confidently use the **Editing Code**. The Editing Code (pg. 15 of student diary) will help students to cognitively reflect on their writing to ensure that they are presenting their best written work. Teachers will be encouraging and reminding students to use this helpful resource during the writing process in all learning areas.

Melanie Burr
Learning Enhancement Leader

All Things VET and Senior Schooling

Hi everyone ... I am excited to introduce myself to you in my new role within McAuley College. This year I accepted the role of Middle Leader Curriculum. What does that mean? My job is to prepare the College for the new SATE System (senior assessment and tertiary entrance system) and to create a VET program for the College. A great deal of ground work needs to be achieved so that we can hit the ground running in 2021 with our Year 11 cohort and ... our inaugural agricultural elective, actually begins in Semester 2 of this year; very exciting.



Our most recent project has been applying for VET funding through the Gateway to Industry School Program. With the help of Mrs Tenille Brimson who will be teaching Year 9 Agricultural Studies, we have just submitted an expression of interest for a \$5000 VET grant. Fingers crossed we are successful – stay tuned! We are also very excited to announce the arrival and erection of our very first greenhouse in early March – pictures to follow.

In Term 2 our goal is to meet with all Year 8 and 9 students and their parents, to open up the conversation with regards to student interests and Pathways. Although they are young, this information will be invaluable with regards to the VET courses and General subjects that we offer moving forward. Our priority is always our students and preparing them for life and I am grateful to be a part of this journey with them.

Yours in all things VET and Senior Schooling
Mrs Donna Johnston—**Curriculum Development Leader**

PASTORAL NEWS

Year 7 Reflection Day

On Wednesday, 27 February, our Year 7 students participated in the first of a series of Reflection Days, exploring our College touchstones of Believe, Learn and Serve.

We took time out of our regular school routines to travel to *The Centre*, Beaudesert, to participate in a series of sessions and activities exploring the theme of *Believe*.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the theme of *Believe* in the areas of Belief in Self (my own talents and strengths), Belief in Others (my relationship with others and my belonging to the community of McAuley College) and Belief in God (a reflection on our own personal faith journey).

Balancing our reflection time, we also enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle lunch and some recreation time in Jubilee Park.

All students participated in the Reflection Day with energy and enthusiasm and we left *The Centre* feeling uplifted and inspired to implement our new insights into daily life at McAuley College.

I thank Ms Beattie, Mrs Johnston and Mr Harris for their engaging and thoughtful presentations; Mrs Dunn for facilitating our small-group activities and Mrs Riddle, who prepared lunch for all students and staff.

Please enjoy this selection of photos from the day.

Chris Borg

Pastoral Leader, Year 7 & 8.



As of this week, our Year 9 students have the opportunity to sit in their own seating area at iCube Quad on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Exclusively for Year 9 students, this area provides a 'retreat' for our Year 9 cohort as a space they can call their own. We hope to see our Year 9 students take ownership of this area and ensure it is a place of welcome, belonging and friendship.

Next Tuesday, 5 March, Year 9 students will participate in a Retreat Day held at The Centre, Beaudesert. The day will be run by the NET team, a youth ministry group who will focus on the theme of peer pressure. Students will be required to wear their Sports uniform and will need to bring morning tea, a hat, pencil case and a water bottle in their school bag. All students will attend Pastoral Care in the morning as usual, before boarding a bus to The Centre. Students will arrive back at the College in time to be picked up or catch normal buses as usual in the afternoon.

Ashleigh Beattie

Pastoral Leader, Years 9 & 10

SPORTS NEWS

It has been a busy few weeks in Sport.

One wonderful thing about Sport is the way it brings people together. I wish to thank everyone who came along and supported the McAuley College Swimming Carnival. A special thanks to those members of our college community that go above and beyond volunteering their time to ensure these days run smoothly. I wish also to thank Mick and the staff at the Pool for their assistance; and also the Beaudesert Swimming Club for the use of their facilities.

It was great to see so much participation at our carnival. The following Monday we had nine students trial for the District swimming team, with two making selection. Well done to all our students, particularly to Anna Brandon and Sam Blyton who will compete at the South Coast Swimming carnival next week. Wishing you both the best of luck.

Well done to Emmy Heit and Lilly Braxton for being selected the 12 years Beaudesert Zone Netball team. They recently trialled for the District team, with Emmy being selected, and Lilly as a shadow, a great effort.



Over the past two weeks McAuley College has participated in three SECA sport carnivals, Oz tag Girls and Boys and Boys Cricket. We had a great number of teams participating. Although we didn't have many wins it is great to hear positive feedback from officials about our young men and women. Students did us proud and thanks to the teachers who assisted in the running of these days.



We have some very keen runners that will be competing in Boonah this Saturday in the 5km run as part of the Chappy Challenge. It will be an early start and we wish them all the very best.

Can you please ensure your son/daughter is checking the student portal as this is the only location all Sporting messages are placed.

We have quite a few events coming up in March. Looking forward to sharing this with you in the next issue,

James Way
Acting Sports Leader



What a great day!



