

newsletter

Principal:

Deidre Young

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Principal's Message Issue : 1 25 January 2018

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the first newsletter for 2018! It has been wonderful to celebrate another milestone as we commence our year for the first time with both Year 7 & 8 students. We are pleased to welcome our fifty-five new Year 7 students and three new Year 8 students to our McAuley College family.

DATE CLAIMERS

Friday 26 January

Australia Day

Public Holiday

Friday 2 February

Whole School Photos

Monday 5 February

Celebrating Success Assembly

10:00 am

Tuesday 6 February

New Parent Welcome
and Information Evening

5:30-7:00 pm

Friday 9 February

Whole School Mass and

Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 14th February

No Canteen for

Ash Wednesday

Special Crumbed Fish & Chips
\$7 from Oaklands Fish & Chips.

Order through Flexischool by
3:00pm Tuesday 13th February



Our Year 7 looking very happy on their first day



Our new Year 8 Students add their
names to the McAuley Community

Welcome Alexis, Belle and Aurora



Included with our new members, we also welcome three new staff members. Mrs Donna Penner is an English specialist teacher, along with her ability to teach in the areas of Religious Education, Humanities and Drama. Mrs Tenille Brimson is a Science and Mathematics teacher, with experience in the area of Agriculture Sciences. And finally, Mr Gary Marsh is our IT Technician who comes with over 20 years of experience working in schools in this field. Gary will work Part Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It is also lovely to welcome back Mrs Megan Field, returning from maternity leave. I know we will make all of our new and returning staff feel most welcome.

The start of the year program over this week was a wonderful way to help our Year 7 students’ transition. Our small, personable environment certainly allows our students to feel safe and well supported to manage their timetable, changing lessons and teachers, lockers and make new friends. These are all critical to ensure the challenge of transitioning into secondary school is relatively smooth sailing.

When I spoke to the Year 7 students on the first day, we talked about how McAuley College is named after Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. She was an inspirational woman who worked hard to help others less fortunate than herself. Catherine McAuley built a legacy and we are proud to build a culture and charism in our College that will reflect her work and teachings. Most importantly, through her words and actions she treated others with respect and dignity. And so, Catherine is a role model for us. The image of Catherine’s boots reminds us that when we put our “boots on” getting dressed to come to school, we are called to be like Catherine, to ensure through all we do, our words and actions, we show respect for each other.



The students were reminded that our number one priority at McAuley College is the people... and each person who is a part of our community must contribute to ensure we build positive relationships that allow each person to flourish and be their best self.

And so, in these early days as the students are settling, I remind parents that your first point of contact is your child’s Pastoral Care (PC) teacher. We start each day with our PC group, and they are the best person to assist in monitoring any concerns you may have about how your son or daughter are settling back into school. Listed are the names of Pastoral Care teachers for your reference:

PC Group	PC Teacher
BOJ1	Mrs Melanie Burr
BOJ2	Mrs Donna Penner
FRA1	Mrs Pamela Brechin
FRA2	Mr David Harris
MAC1	Mrs Megan Field
MAC2	Mr James Way
STE1	Mrs Amy Richards
STE2	Mrs Tenille Brimson

As well, our other four key support staff include:



Mrs Deirdre Parkins, College Secretary

Mrs Parkins is only a call away if you need to speak with someone to clarify any details or pass on a message to your child or their PC teacher.



Mr Christopher Borg

Mr Borg is our Year 7 & 8 Pastoral Care Coordinator. He is an additional support person for your child and works closely with our PC teachers.



Mrs Kym Houston

Mrs Houston is our Guidance Counsellor. She will deliver a range of programs, both to the whole group and small targeted programs. She is also available for individual counselling and over the first few weeks will make a time to meet with each student. Mrs Houston will work part time; Mondays, Tuesdays and every second Friday.



Mrs Natalie Storrs

Mrs Storrs is our Support Teacher Inclusive Education (STIE) teacher. She will work intensely with teachers co-teaching and co-planning to support all of our students and their learning needs. She will also work specifically with students who have learning needs that required extension or adjustments. Mrs Storrs works part time; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please make note of key dates listed on the front page of the College Newsletter which you will receive each fortnight. In particular, we have **Whole School Photos next Friday, 2 February** and a **New Parent Welcome and Information Evening from 5.30 – 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6 February**.

In Mercy,

Deidre Young

Principal

Student Protection Officers:

If parents or students need to speak with someone regarding any concerns related to Student Protection, the three Student Protection Contacts at McAuley College are:

Mrs Deidre Young

Mr David Harris

Mrs Kym Houston

BELIEVE... In action

Assistant Principal Religious Education

I extend a very warm welcome to all new and returning McAuley College parents and carers and congratulate you on choosing McAuley College for your son or daughter. As a College, we are very cognisant of the fact that we partner with you in the aspirations that you have in the academic formation and wellbeing of your sons and daughters. With McAuley College being in its early foundation years, we have a unique opportunity to establish a culture that will best meet the needs of our students. Last year the College was involved in defining and establishing aspects of our spirituality and expectations that we can build upon this year. The students are actively involved in this process and we invite parent input and feedback.

Prayer at McAuley College

As a Catholic college, McAuley College looks to educate the whole person. This includes inviting students to consider the spiritual dimension of their lives. The first Religious Education unit for Year 7 focusses on various forms of prayer and the role that prayer plays in building a relationship with God and in building unity amongst the community. As part of this process, the College has developed a formula that is used to conclude each prayer at the College. The formula draws on central guiding elements of the College as a Catholic College in the Mercy tradition. The formula includes a statement from the prayer leader and a response from the community. It is as follows:



Prayer leader: *Catherine McAuley*
All respond: *Guide us*
Prayer leader: *Jesus*
All respond: *Be with us*
Prayer leader: *Believe, Learn, Serve*
All respond: *Inspire us*

All members of the College are invited to join in this prayer whenever we pray as a community.

I encourage all parents and carers to spend a few moments perusing the College web site. Under the tab labelled [BELIEVE](#) you will find a brief overview of the College's RE Program, Religious Life of the College, our Mercy traditions and our Theme for 2018 *'Blessed be the boots that carry us to action for mercy's sake in our world'*.

Keeping it REAL at McAuley College – Pastoral Care framework

McAuley College has adopted a school wide Positive Behaviours for Learning framework as its approach to assisting students to develop productive behaviours for their learning and wellbeing. These productive behaviours have been summarised by the statement of 'Keeping it REAL at McAuley'.

REAL is an acronym for:

- R**espect
- E**xcellence
- A**ct Responsibly
- L**ive with integrity

The College has defined the productive behaviours that will promote these values across the College. These behaviours have been summarised in a matrix that is published on [Page 12 of the College diary](#) and explicitly taught to the students to assist them in developing their academic abilities and wellbeing. Further details regarding the College's school wide Positive Behaviours for Learning framework can be found on the College website under the [PASTORAL CARE](#) tab. I invite all parents to become familiar with these productive behaviours and discuss them with your child.

I very much look forward to our College community celebrating our Commencement Mass on Friday 9 February. All are invited. Official invitations will follow next week. This term the College will also gather for an Ash Wednesday Mass at 11:40am on Wednesday 14 February, as well as engage with Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal.

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

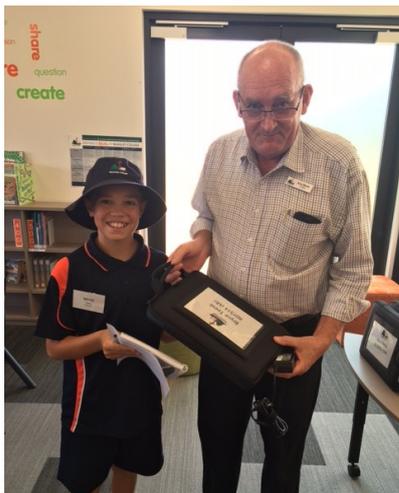
David Harris

Assistant Principal – Religious Education

LEARN... In action

As this is the first newsletter of the year I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our Year 8 students and their families. I hope everyone had a wonderful break over the Christmas/New Year period, and everyone has been enjoying the hot summer weather before school resumes. I'd also like to welcome all our new Year 7 students who started this week, as well as their families. After the success of our first year at McAuley College it was wonderful to see nearly sixty new Year 7 students start on Tuesday. Our school has quickly grown in twelve months.

When we started in 2017 our Year 7 students were broken into two core classes – T (for Tamborine Mountain) and W (for Wyaralong Dam). This year, with increased numbers in Year 7, we've added a third stream – B (for Mount Barney). As with last year, our Year 7 students will study their core subjects of Religion, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Health and Physical Education (HPE) and Spanish in these class groups. As with last year, Religion, English, Mathematics and Science are full year subjects. Geography and History are semester subjects as are HPE and Spanish. Our Arts and Technology subjects are studied on a term rotation, and are often referred to as "elective" subjects. Unlike last year however, this isn't based on house group. Year 7 students were randomly assigned to these elective classes. The elective rotation will again run over six terms, finishing at the end of Term Two in Year 8. Our current Year 8 students will complete their "elective" rotation at the end of this semester.



With the start of a new term students will be asked to sign the ***Contract for Student Use of College ICT Resources*** found on pages 18 and 19 of the Student Diary. Parents are also asked to sign this document after reading it with their son or daughter.

The hot weather of Christmas and New Year has extended into late January, and it looks set to continue well into February. Students need to be mindful of the current hot weather and make sure they're drinking plenty of water during the day. They also need to make sure they have their hats on whenever they are outside of classrooms during the school week.

Have a great fortnight

Michael Darcy
Deputy Principal

SPORTS NEWS

Welcome to 2018. I am looking forward to another wonderful year of Sport at McAuley College and I am already impressed by the number of students who have expressed interest in the many sporting options we have available throughout Term One.

2018 Pacific District Representative Trials

The ball gets rolling early with a number of Pacific District Representative trials held throughout the term.

These trials are for students who have had experience in their chosen Sport and regularly play at club level. A student would attend these trials if they would like to be considered for the District Team to compete at South Coast level.

At McAuley College we support student attendance at these trials however it should be noted that transport and supervision throughout the trial remains the sole responsibility of parents and carers.

If a student is interested in attending a trial they are asked to speak with me 5 days prior to the nomination due date, which will enable the required permission forms to be sent home via the Parent Portal as well as any other organisation and preparation necessary.

Trial information is updated quite regularly and can be accessed using the following link;

<https://southcoastschoolsport.eq.edu.au/Districtsports/Pacific/Pages/Pacific.aspx>

Please note the following key trials in coming weeks; baseball, hockey, volleyball, rugby league, swimming, netball, basketball and AFL.

Morning Training

Due to the success of morning training in 2017 and the enthusiasm shown by students, it will continue in 2018. Swimming training and aqua activities will continue on a Wednesday at Beaudesert Swimming Pool commencing at 7:30am. Cross Country training will continue on a Friday at the College commencing at 7:00am.

After each training session students have time to shower and get ready for the school day before sharing breakfast. In 2017, many generous parents purchased cereal, milk and eating utensils, ensuring the student started the day well.

Students who are interested in morning training should speak with me so I can organise for the permission paperwork to be sent home via the Parent Portal system.

Wednesday training will commence on 7 February and Friday training will commence next week, on 2 February.

Swimming Carnival

Our Annual College Swimming Carnival will be held at Beaudesert Swimming Pool on Friday 9 February commencing at 12 noon. This is the first major carnival of our 2018 school year and a wonderful way to come together as a whole school community. Like 2017, we are seeking parent volunteers who may be able to provide some assistance with timing throughout the day. Students will be provided with more information at a Sports assembly next Thursday afternoon and a permission form will be available on the Parent Portal in Week Two.



Tuesday Night Netball

Beaudesert & District Netball Association will host a Tuesday night competition commencing 27 March 2018. We will be entering a McAuley College team and invite female students to express interest in order to gather some further information. This information will be sent through the Parent Portal, with further meetings and training to follow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Jayne Heit for role as Team Manager.

There is already much to talk about and I could go on, but I won't! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the sporting opportunities at McAuley College.

Yours in Sport

Mrs Amy Richards - Sports Coordinator



Outstanding Achievements

We love to hear about what our students are up to outside of College life. So we are delighted to share this news about Sam Blyton who won a gold medal at the Southport meet in 100m Backstroke, qualified in 50m Backstroke and 50m Freestyle for the 2018 QLD Sprint Championships held in February and achieved huge Personal Best in all his competitions over the break. **Well Done Sam!!!!**

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome to 2018! I am excited to be back at McAuley College and certainly looking forward to all that the year will bring. We have had a great start to the year already, with a fantastic response to the expression of interest in music lessons. Currently we offer **piano, guitar**, and now **voice** lessons, as well as the **College Choir**.



We are incredibly lucky to have a fantastic instrumental teaching team with expertise and knowledge.

Ms Joanna Funk, our piano teacher, has a great performance background, and currently gigs around Brisbane. She is also a musical blogger, writing reviews on bands and musicians; records covers of a great number of artists; and spends a great deal of time keeping her website up-to-date.



Mr Lachlan Bradshaw is our guitar teacher. With extensive guitar teaching experience, Lachie offers individual lessons and group lessons, with no more than four students. He also has a great performance background on the guitar, bass and vocals.

We are excited to welcome Ms Erin MacNamara to the team as our vocal teacher and choir director. Erin has an impressive performance history, performing in venues all around Brisbane. Having studied voice at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, she has also had the amazing opportunity to have vocal lessons with Mark DeLisser, Jesse J's singing teacher, and Dane Chalfin, a West End vocal coach, who works on UK's

The Voice. She loves all styles of music, particularly rock, pop and jazz. **(Photo in next newsletter)**

Lessons occur in 30-minute sessions throughout the school day, with students coming out of class to attend. Lessons are individual (\$30 per half hour), with the exception of the guitar, which has group lessons (\$18 per half hour) available. A report is issued each semester, which clearly outlines for parents how their child is progressing. The College will also facilitate performance opportunities, which students are greatly encouraged to participate in.

The College Choir has been a wonderful addition to McAuley College. Students are invited and encouraged to join the choir – no experience necessary, a love of singing is all you need! This year, Erin will aim to build confidence and introduce harmony through an exciting repertoire list. The Choir will be given performance opportunities throughout the year, and will, of course, work towards QCMF – the renowned musical competition for all Queensland Catholic schools. Choir rehearsals are on Tuesdays during first break, in W3.

The start of 2018 has been fantastic already, and I'm excited to keep the momentum going. If you are interested in lessons, please complete a Letter of Agreement (on the Parent Portal), which includes all of the finer lesson details, and return it to the College. We will continue to gauge student interest in lessons throughout the year, and look to add to our teaching team as interest levels rise. Great things are ahead, and I am so looking forward to seeing how much the program is going to evolve this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Megan Field—Music Teacher

Date Claimer— Friday 16 March, St Paddy's Dinner



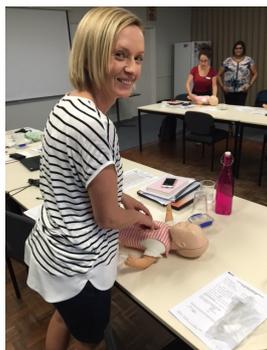
Make sure you mark this important event in your calendar. Come along for a great night out, where the Guinness will flow, the crack great and the music—**very Irish**. We will have live entertainment by Irish band "The Munster Bucks" who will have you toe tapping along to Irish tunes and singing at the top of your voice.

So start organising a group, come as a couple or an individual, book a table or join one and meet new people. It doesn't matter because on St Patrick's Day we are all Irish. Tickets will be available on Trybooking shortly.

The Staff gets prepared for a new year

CPR Training and Professional Development

We are ready for our students



**And of course there was a celebration
and lots of food!**

On Our First Day



We Come Together as One ...

