

McAuley News



2009 Term 4 Issue 17

13th November 2009

Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

This week the HSC examinations draw to a close and the Year 10 students completed their School Certificate examinations. I congratulate all our students on their diligence and cooperation over this examination period and I especially thank **Mrs Pam Molyneaux**, Director of Studies, for her overall organisation of the examinations and all the staff whose commitment and competence have prepared our girls so well for these examinations.

As they wait for the results it is important that we reassure them that an examination mark is only one aspect of their schooling and not a reflection of their value as a person or their ultimate destiny in life. Today there are many pathways to different careers and we encourage all our students to think widely and creatively about the next step in that journey, and to consult our Careers Advisor, **Mrs Judy Green**, if they need support in exploring the many options available.

This week we had a focus on Social Justice at our school assembly. We

were delighted to present a cheque for \$3167.05 to **Sister Janet Woods rsm** from Mamre House. **Sister Janet** spoke to the school about the ways in which the Sisters support refugee families through their education and farming projects and thanked the students and **Mr Paul Marks** and **Mrs Dorothy Spiteri** for their involvement in the crèche project.

We also welcomed back our Year 9 students who had taken part in the immersion experience to St Teresa's Community School at Wilcannia. The students described some of their experiences and the insights into the needs of remote indigenous communities which this experience had given them. They presented the school with a beautiful wooden bowl, made by a member of the indigenous community, and encouraged the whole school to support the *Dance-Off* later in the term, part of our fundraising activities for the provision of shade at St Teresa's. I congratulate these girls on their participation in this program and thank **Mrs Teresa Wilson** and **Sister**

Helen Law rsm, who organised the experience and accompanied the girls to Wilcannia. We hope to establish long term relationships with this community, as part of our participation in the Circle of Mercy.



I have had a number of queries about the governments' laptop programs for schools. There are two distinct government programs. The NSW State Government initiative involves the issue of notebook computers to all Year 9 students in government schools. This applies only to students in government schools. These computers have not been offered to students in Catholic schools at this stage. The Federal government offered grants to fund additional computers and, as a result of our successful application, we received a grant to purchase 122 laptops for the school.

As a Mercy school, committed to values of equity and justice, we have made the decision that all computers are to be available to all students, rather than limiting them to a select group. As a result of the Commonwealth grant and our own school expenditure, we now have a ratio of 1 computer to every 2 students, which means that our students have excellent and equitable access to technology for learning. If you have concerns about access to technology at the school, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

On Wednesday of this past week, the Mercy community world-wide commemorated the death of Mother Catherine McAuley on 11th November, 1841. On the anniversary of her death, we remember all her sisters and those who work to make her vision a reality in this world. May her life and death continue to inspire us to work for mercy, justice and acceptance for all.

M. Jackman

Ms Margery Jackman
Principal



Catherine McAuley students who visited Wilcannia this month with a respected local indigenous elder from the Barkindji tribe in Wilcannia.

Curriculum and Pastoral Care

Religious Education

Year 12 Retreat

On Wednesday 4th November, Year 11 students set off for their Year 12 Retreat. It is the pinnacle of their spiritual development, where students take time out of their busy lives to reflect. The theme of this year's retreat was 'Pictures of You'. The girls participated in small group activities focusing on the value they place on themselves and those people around them. There was mask making, picture frame decorating and time to spend with their friends. All students and staff had a wonderful three days away. Thank you to all staff who attended this very worthwhile activity!

Mrs Lisa Kemmis
Assistant Religious Education Coordinator

Year 8 Reflection Day

On Tuesday 27th October, Year 8 had their Reflection Day which was held at St Paul the Apostle Primary School, Winston Hills. The day was run by the National Evangelisation Team also known as the Net Team. Throughout this great day we were all fortunate enough to join in lots of fun activities and learn about our current topic of reconciliation. We learnt about the importance of forgiving someone and showing repentance. After many laughs during the day we finished off by being given the opportunity to talk to a friend and either compliment them or

apologise to them for something we have done wrong or a fight or argument we had had. We were all very thankful to the teachers who organised this fun day and the NET Team who were very open-hearted and accepting and who helped us learn the importance of forgiveness.

Nicola Bonaventura and Brianna Pearce
Year 8 Students

Diocesan Mass

Last Wednesday the Diocese of Parramatta held a special mass at St. Patrick's, Blacktown to recognise the significance of the 100th anniversary of the death of Blessed Mary MacKillop. **Ms Margery Jackman** and eight students represented Catherine McAuley at this Mass.

Ms Petah Foran
Religious Education Coordinator

Learning and Teaching

All My Own Work Program

Year 10 students sat for their external School Certificate Examinations, including the online Computer Skills Test, this week. The Year 10 students will be undertaking the Board of Studies Program *All My Own Work* this term. "All My Own Work is a program designed to help HSC students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding, valuing and using ethical practices when locating and using informa-

tion as part of their HSC studies" (BOS). The program consists of five modules:

- *Scholarship Principles and Practices*. This module deals with among other things the ethical issues involved in good scholarship.
- *Acknowledging Sources*. This module explains how and why sources used in the creation of students' work should be acknowledged.
- *Plagiarism*
- *Copyright*
- *Working with others*. This module considers how students can work collaboratively in their senior years while, at the same time, maintaining the academic integrity of their work.

Students are able to work through the program at their own pace. Each of the modules consists of focus questions, a summary, frequently asked questions, resources and a quiz. All students must have satisfactorily completed the *All My Own Work* program before they can be entered for study in Preliminary HSC courses.

More details on the program and the program modules can be seen by visiting the Board of Studies website at <http://amow.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/guide.html>

Mr John Neaves
Assistant Principal
(Learning and Teaching)

Staff and Student News

Year 7 Maths Fun Day

Year 7 students spent Tuesday this week engaging in a full day of mathematics fun. The annual Maths Fun Day aims to provide students with an opportunity to experience new and challenging mathematics enrichment activities in a relaxed and fun filled atmosphere. The day this year was held on Pi Day, which is the 314th day of the year. The students participated in a Maths Trail, created a pi necklace, whereby they had to put the beads in the number order of pi, enjoyed lots of problem solving activities in the World of Maths rooms, had to run around in the Maths Relay and finished off by performing a Maths rap, which saw students make up their own rap song based on something they had learnt in Mathematics during the year. **Mrs Joanne Evans, Mathematics Teacher**



Staff and Student News

The Gifted Challenge

This year a team consisting of **Ms Alison O'Hare, Miss Grace Colella, Mrs Belinda Manoogian, Ms Joanne Bleakley** and **Mr John Neaves** have been researching strategies to support gifted and talented students at Catherine McAuley. The team, with the assistance of an external consultant, has developed a new direction for supporting gifted and talented students.

A review of the school's present gifted and talented program has been conducted. Staff has been involved in discussions about a new whole school approach, based on current research, to cater for gifted and talented students.

Last week two staff members attended 'The Gifted Challenge' at the University of Western Sydney. This was a two day workshop aimed at providing teachers with the best ways to develop the knowledge and skills of gifted students. **Ms O'Hare** and **Miss Collella** who attended the workshop both said it was wonderful to see the latest research that can be implemented at Catherine McAuley.

Year 7 Excursion to Taronga Zoo

Year 7 students enjoyed a day at the zoo on Friday 30th October as part of their Science course. The students have this term been studying their Classification Unit which looks at how animals are grouped according to their different/similar features.



Year 7 students at Taronga Zoo.

Year 11 EEC Playgroup

On Wednesday 28th October, Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood (EEC) classes organised and ran a playgroup at school. We had 18 children aged between 1 and 5 years attend and they had a great time painting and playing with play dough, dressing up, playing on the jumping castle, getting their faces painted and dancing to the wiggles. Healthy food and drinks were needed after all the activity and we are sure there were many exhausted children at the end of the day - Year 11 included.

We would like to thank the parents and teachers who brought their children in. It was a great experience and one we will never forget.

Year 11 EEC Students



ACER Language Competitions

This year students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 participated in French and Japanese Language Competitions. The Year 8 students sat for Certificate One and were so successful that the number of girls achieving a distinction or high distinction are too numerous to mention here. They received their certificates at the Year 8 Assembly. The Year 9 students sat for Certificate 2 and the following students from Year 9 received a distinction or high distinction in one or more categories:

JAPANESE: **Ariane Adlao, Vanessa Chu, Sheryl Jerry, Gabriella Khouri, Vivien Lee, Elissa Nguyen, Kristina Palero, Sarah Tena, Leslie De Guzman, Ruby Li, Julia Yang**

FRENCH: **Ariadne Colaco, Rachel Cox, Simone Frappier, Lani Wright, Marijana Radovic**

Years 10 and 11 sat for Certificate 3 and those who received a distinction

or high distinction were:

JAPANESE: **Meg Iqbal, Liza Vecino, Jaime Cheuk**

FRENCH: **Elaura Gieules, Tatjana Leung-Kei, Rochell De Silva**

The overall results were excellent and on a par with or above the standard achieved by the other participating schools and countries. Congratulations girls.

Ms Grainne Flynn
LOTE Coordinator

Junior and Intermediate MCCS Touch Football

The 2009 MCCS Touch Football Competition is finally here! Both the Junior and Intermediate teams have started their seasons very well with victories to both teams in Rounds 1 and 2.

We would like to wish both teams great enjoyment and success in the upcoming weeks and we hope they achieve their potential. Good luck.

JUNIOR TEAM

Sophie Angeloudis, Nicola Bonaventura, Lauren Easton, Kristen Frangie, Kate Hanna, Gemma McMahon, Selena Mendoza, Brianna Pearce, Jessica Reitano, Annalise Scerri, Alexandra Spehar, Jessica Tighe

INTERMEDIATE TEAM

Renee Browne, Michaela Cattle, Stephanie Eid, Vanessa El-Cheika, Martina Francis, Simone Frappier, Elaura Gieules, Stephanie Golding, Jane Ellen Graham, Valentine Imbun, Brooke McCallum, Kellie Mortimer, Jessica Muir

Mrs Maria Ekde & Miss Sharon Brincat
Touch Football Coaches

Mercy Justice Conference

Sisters of Mercy across Australia and their co-workers came together in Canberra this month for a Mercy Justice Conference. Over 250 people attended to hear a variety of speakers including Dr Tim Flannery, one of Australia's best-known scientists and the 2007 Australian of the Year. The purpose of the Conference was to discuss issues and formulate outcomes for a variety of global concerns including climate change, indigenous Australians and asylum seekers. Three staff members from Catherine McAuley attended along with ex-student 2006 **Rebecca Abdou**.

Noticeboard

Dates for the 2009 Calendar

Tues 17 Nov	P & F Meeting /AGM
Wed 18 Nov - Fri 20 Nov	Year 11 Geography Camp
Thurs 19 Nov	School Tour Morning
Mon 23 Nov - Fri 27 Nov	Year 11 Work Experience
Wed 25 Nov	Performing Arts Night
Thurs 26 Nov	Year 12 Formal
Fri 27 Nov	Year 7 2010 Orientation Day
Fri 11 Dec	Years 7 - 11 Awards Day
Mon 14 Dec	Years 7-11 Parent/Teacher Interviews 11:00am-6:00pm
Tues 15 Dec - Thurs 17 Dec	Years 7 - 9 Activity Program
Fri 18 Dec	End of Term 4

Dates for the 2010 Calendar

Mon 11 Jan	School Office Opens
Thurs 28 Jan	Year 7 Commence
Fri 29 Jan	Years 8 - 12 Students Return

Wilcannia Reflections

"The children always had smiles on their faces and were always keen to learn as much as they could", **Ariadne Colaco, Year 9**

"The community was great, they made us feel welcomed in every way and they were just absolutely delighted to have us visit their town and appreciate it for what it is and not simply drive pass it", **Nora Bayssari, Year 9**

"It's not just the excessive amounts of things we have and the little they have and are happy with, it's the genuiness of the people and their community that got to me", **Athena Jayaratnam, Assistant Social Justice Leader, Year 10**



LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM... Seeking Mentors

The Lighthouse Program is a mentoring project that is coordinated by Parramatta CEO and has been operating since 2001. During this time it has matched over 350 Year 9 and 10 students with volunteer mentors.

The volunteer mentor hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week (May to September excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors undergo free TAFE mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment "mentoring in the Community". A Workplace Trainer supports both the student and the mentor during their placement.

There is currently a shortage of mentors and on behalf of the Lighthouse personnel we are appealing to the **Catherine McAuley** community to become involved in this worthwhile project. You may not be mentoring a **Catherine McAuley** student, but you will be providing a fantastic opportunity to a young person from our area. Mentors can be from any industry, an individual or a large company

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact:

Maree Armstrong-Ley, Program Coordinator, 0417 060 132
Vanessa McDougall, Workplace Trainer, 0407 246 955

Mrs Teresa Wilson
Year 9 Coordinator

Mrs Lyn Wooden
School Counsellor

Parents & Friends Meeting and AGM

The next Parents & Friends Committee Meeting will be held on

Tuesday 17 November 2009
at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start

This will be our AGM and new Committee members will be elected.

ALL WELCOME

Year 11 2010 Senior Blouse

Current Year 10 students can now purchase their senior blouse and are permitted to wear it during Term 4. Minimum of two blouses to be purchased at a cost of \$40 each.

Uniform Shop hours are Tuesday 8:00am-2:30pm.



Performing Arts Night

All that Sizzles

A celebration of dance, drama, music and art.

Wednesday 25th November

7:00pm

Morley Centre

Tickets: \$5

Tickets are available from School Reception and on the night at the door.

To avoid disappointment buy tickets prior.

