From the Principal

Dear Parents

A little self-reflection for parents and teachers ...........

SIGNS ADULTS ARE BEING TOO STRICT

1. A zero tolerance policy - while it's important to have clear rules, it's equally important to recognise that there are often exceptions to the rules. Rather than taking an authoritarian stance on everything, show a willingness to evaluate behaviour in context of the circumstance. This is how children learn to exercise their own judgement and understand right and wrong.

2. Telling lies - harsh discipline turns children into good liars. If adults are too strict, children are likely to lie about little things – as well as the big things – in an effort to avoid punishment.

3. More restrictions than other classes and families – families have different expectations but if parents are always the strictest parent in the crowd, it could be a sign that their expectations are too high. A teacher who is constantly enforcing rules, disciplining students and calling on senior staff to reprimand them may be the one at fault and out of kilter rather than the children.

4. Little patience for silliness - kids love ridiculous jokes and silly games. It’s important to have fun together, develop shared jokes and fool around.

5. Little tolerance for other people's discipline - strict adults often have difficulty tolerating the way other teachers run their classroom. It’s good for children to be exposed to adults who have different rules and standards but they should always know they can expect respect, balance and fairness.

6. A long list of rules - rules have their place, but too many rules can be harmful. A classroom or household run on rules is rarely a happy, relaxed place to live. Watch out for too many rules, charts, punishments and lists of consequences. No child can live up to a life so regimented.

7. No allowance for natural consequences – we develop our values by making mistakes and suffering the natural consequences. That is how our consciences grow. Feeling bad about what you did is the best way of learning from your mistakes. Adults don’t have to be constantly wagging their fingers and haranguing children.

8. Nagging - nagging stops children from taking responsibility for their own behaviour. If adults keep on nagging children about everything they will find it hard to learn to manage to do those things on their own – or will do it only when they hear that nagging voice.

9. Handling out constant directions - constantly telling children how to sit, hold a pen, speak and eat leads to children tuning out the adult voice. Show respect for children’s ability to use their own good sense and skills.

10. No choices - strict adults often bark orders without any consultation or input from the child. Giving children freedom, especially when both choices are good ones, can go a long way. While there are times that kids need adult direction, it’s important to allow for initiative and creativity.

11. Praise for outcomes not effort - strict adults usually reserve their limited praise for perfection, rather than the child’s effort. If you praise children only for getting full marks in a test, they learn that affirmation is conditional on high achievement.

12. Outrageous threats - strict adults make disproportionate threats on a regular basis. The punishment long outlasts the offence. Too often others are drawn in when a whole class is punished for the actions of a few. Avoid making threats and make sure consequences are about improvement not punishment. (Acknowledgement: Amy Morin in About Parenting).

Kind regards,

Rodney Little, Principal
**Coming up this Week (Wk 2)**

**TODAY Thursday 23rd:**
- School counsellor visit
- HELPING YOUR CHILD BOUNCE BACK—Resilience Session 6:30pm. McAuley Hall.

**TOMORROW Friday 24th:**
- School student banking
- Secondary Netball Carnival
- Last day of BOOK FAIR

**Coming up next week (Wk 3)**

**Monday 27th:**
- Pambula excursion payment due $50

**Tuesday 28th:**
- Study afternoon in school Library.
- Year 7.2 visit Blakeney Lodge
- ICAS Secondary English Exam

**Wednesday 29th:**
- Yr 3-6 Tennis Program. $3-00 per child please.
- Aspirations Program—Hennessy College Young

**Thursday 30th:**
- Brainstorm Production K-10 “Sticks and Stones”.
- Eucharist Parent/Student Meeting
- Warm and Wooly Winter Appeal

**Friday 31st:**
- School student banking day.

**Canteen Roster Wk 3**

**PRIMARY CANTEEN**
- Mon 27th: Ewan Watkins and Matt White
- Wed 29th: Kerrie Gentle and Virginia Goode
- Friday 31st: Jenny Parry and Catherine Kelly

**SECONDARY CANTEEN**
- Mon to Fri: Leanne Adams

**Secondary Homework Due**

Yr 7.2 Weekly Homework Sheet due every Monday.
Yr 7.2 Technology Micro Movie due Wk 9, 10th Sept
Yr 9 English Independent novel Study Booklet-ongoing dates all in Edmodo.
Yr 9.2 Geography—Assign and presentation due Monday 20th.
Yr 9/10 Woodwork Assign due September 9th
Yr 10 Major Woodwork Folio Part A due 26/8, Part B due 26/11

**Communication with Teachers**

As many of you are aware a number of classes are using Edmodo requiring email contact with teachers. Messages can be sent via Face Book and SMS. Teacher mobile phone numbers are also widely known. I would be most grateful if parents and students were respectful of the fact that teachers have families and responsibilities beyond their work life. Teachers like everyone else finish work at the appropriate time and should not be expected to be on-call as this is not a requirement of their role.

Teachers are by nature generous individuals and will often “go the extra mile for their students” however, some respectful limits should be acknowledged. Teachers cannot be expected to reply in the evenings or over weekends, many will but this is their choice. A phone call to the Office can often provide the quickest answer.

**McAuley Community Garden**

Last term wonderful parents, Lacey and Adam Graham donated 24 star pickets and Marion and James Oag donated apple bins, to make new composting bays in our community Garden.

McAuley is so lucky to have such generous parents who contribute to our school in so many ways. Thank you again to the Graham and Oag families and keep an eye-out for our new composting bins.

**Drama—Props Required!**

Our drama room requires props!

Interesting clothing ie: capes, handbags, brief cases, wands, gloves etc. Anything that will stimulate the students imagination will be appreciated. Clothing that can be easily placed over school clothes will work best please. Also if you would like to donate a large storage basket/box for storing the items—we would appreciate it!!

**Primary Sports Uniform**

*Primary ,Term 3 Sports days are as follows:*
- Year 5/6—Wednesday and Friday
- Year 3/4—Wednesday and Friday
- Year 1/2—Tuesday and Friday

**Excursion/School Fee Payments**

We appreciate the financial commitments families are continually facing — however, all families are reminded of the need to KEEP UP TO DATE with school fee and excursion payments.

We currently have a number of excursions (under an instalment payment plan) ie: Yr 5/6 Canberra, Yr 7 Borambola, Yr 9 Pambula and Yr 10 Tasmania.

Please—regular payments, must be made to ensure your child will be able to participate in these excursions.

As a school, we cannot fund your child on an excursion except under exceptional circumstances.

Please see the Principal if you have any concerns or financial issues regarding fees or school excursion payment plans.

**‘WARM & WOOLLY’**

Winter Appeal—Next Thursday 30th July

Next Thursday our SRC are having their annual St Vinnies WARM AND WOOLLY WINTER APPEAL. All students are invited to come to school in casual warm clothing and bring along an item or clothing and/or bedding to donate to our wonderful St Vinnies. This winter has been particularly cold and St Vincent de Paul are seeking our assistance to provide warm blankets etc. to members of our community who are in need.
McAuley is currently taking enrolments for Year 7, 2016. Interviews with the Principal are taking place now until the end of July. Families are encouraged to attend to the necessary paper-work now.

Doodle for Google Competition for Students 7-10

Our school has entered into the “Doodle for Google” Competition with the theme - “If I could travel back in time I would………”

If you are in Year 7-10 and have an artistic flair, why not enter this great competition.......... Winners will receive a Chromebook, $10,000 worth of technology or equipment for the school—and your Google Doodle will be displayed on Google for one day! Students will need to adhere to the contest theme. If you are interested in entering please see Miss Smith for a parental consent form.

Completed Doodle for Google entries, as well as parental consent forms are due to Miss Smith by August 5th.

PAUL GROVE: When did you commence school: Kindergarten in 2007
What is one of your favourite school memories? The Year 7 Borambola excursion last year.
One thing you like about McAuley: The small school environment where everyone knows each other.

HAMISH MASON ELLIOTT: When did you commence school: Kindergarten
What is one of your favourite school memories? The ski trips with my friends
One thing you like about McAuley: How friendly everyone is.
One thing you would like the SRC to achieve this year? To fulfil all our goals and all the students to be happy.
Favourite Novel: ‘Tomorrow when the war began’
Interests and Hobbies: Golf, camping, great time with friends & soccer.
What are your dreams for the future: To become a ‘forester’ or a civil engineer and be happy!

GRACE WILLIAMS: When did you commence school: Last Year in Yr 8
What is one of your favourite school memories? The basketball gala day.
One thing you like about McAuley: The small community and the sports carnivals.
One thing you would like the SRC to achieve this year? New footy and netball uniforms.
Favourite Novel: ‘Selfish Kim K’
Interests and Hobbies: Cuticle care and the e-network. League tag, reading, music and netball.
What are your dreams for the future: To work in the business side of the fashion industry.

To install these applications on a mobile device, follow the same process as above but allow the download links to open in the relevant app store.

Information Software Technology

Pictured are Jarred Reynolds and Bryce Hall fitting speakers to the computers in the primary resource room as part of their year 9&10 Information Software Technology (IST) class. Thanks for your expertise boys.

- David Turnbull, IT Coordinator

Teachers will be running a Study Group Session for students in the library Tuesday afternoons from 3:20 to 4pm. All interested students in Years 7 to 10 are invited to attend.

- Sharon Wyse. Sec Teacher.
Peer Support Training

McAuley school recognises a student’s mental health is an essential component of their wellbeing. Students who feel safe and connected to their school are more likely to experience academic and social success. They are also better equipped with coping strategies should they encounter challenges in their lives. The Peer Support Program aims to provide a positive and safe learning environment for students and staff and can be a powerful tool for bringing about positive cultural change in our school community. Last Friday Mrs Henderson and Mrs Vanags trained the Year 6 students to be Peer Support Leaders. Year 5 students will support the Year 6 students as co-leaders. It was a wonderful day of learning skills and how to be a positive leader.

Peer Support sessions kicked off this week. Children participated in “Moving Forward” which focuses on resilience. Children identified their qualities and strengths and developed skills and strategies to seek support when faced with challenges. Children established connection with other group members and discussed examples of challenging situations and some resilient and non resilient responses. You might like to take the opportunity to discuss with your child what they can do to help take an active role in Peer Support.

- Elly Vanags, Coordinator

Religious Education News

Sacrament of First Eucharist is on Saturday 22nd Aug at 6pm

This is a very exciting term for the Year 3 students as they prepare for and receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The students have commenced the Sacramental program and they are being taught by Mrs Liz Boxall. We are encouraging ALL the students to be part of the Sacramental ceremony. If your child is not a Catholic, they are very welcome to be part of this beautiful celebration.

Information Meeting

Next Thursday, 30th July at 6pm, there is a parent and student Information Evening which will be held in St. Mary’s Hall. This meeting will go for approximately one hour. You will receive information about the practicalities of the day. eg. What to wear, where to sit, time to arrive, etc and the importance of this Sacrament and how you can assist your child prepare for this special event.

Retreat

The Eucharist retreat will be held on Thursday 13th August in the classroom of the McAuley Hall. This is a special time where the students who are receiving the Sacrament or a special blessing join with other students from the state schools who are also receiving the Sacrament, where we will be completing reflection activities and will finish the day with a practise at the Church. If you have any questions regarding this Sacrament, please phone Anita Mason 69472000. Or email anita.mason@cg.catholic.edu.au

YR 8 TALBINGO MOUNTAIN RETREAT Getaway—Thursday 27th -28th August

This year McAuley’s Year 8 students will have a wonderful opportunity to attend a two day camp at the Talbingo Mountain Retreat, which should be a highlight of the year for both the students and their teachers. The Year 8 Pastoral teachers, Mr Michael Hughes and Mr David Turnbull will attend the camp with their students as well as a female staff member to assist with supervision. Cost of the Camp will be $95.00. The two day programme will be run by the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn NET Ministries Diocesan Team, which is made up of full-time volunteers aged 18-25 who have deferred a year of work or study to live a community lifestyle, assisting schools with youth camps. The NET Encounter Days engage students in reasoning, judgement, application and evaluation skills while exploring critical contemporary issues and encouraging students to integrate their life and faith. The Team engages students through small group discussions, creative rotational activities, topical debates, experience based learning and activities. The Encounter Days will also be filled with activities to develop peer relationship and self-confidence.

K-6 and & 7-10 to attend Brainstorm performances " Sticks and Stones " next Thursday

Both shows are especially catered to the groups attending. The highly engaging performance is about non violent, conflict resolution strategies at school, home or anywhere! The shows will assist in creating a safe, harmonious environment for students enlightening them of strategies to assist building positive relationships. The cost of these performances has been included in the school fees.

Coordinator - Liz Boxall