



*"For when two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them..." (Matt 18:20)*

Dear McAuley Family

I extend a warm welcome back to the 2020 Academic year. I especially welcome those students and families who join our school community for the first time. My family and I have been made to feel very welcome as we transition to Tumut, and look forward to the many opportunities that we will enjoy living in the district.

Claudia, Roisin and Fearghus will largely remain in Canberra this year as Fearghus completes Year 12 at Marist College Canberra, but they are very keen to support me in my new and exciting role as Principal of this great school.

In line with that I wish to use this letter to make McAuley Catholic Central School's (MCCS) expectations very clear and transparent as we get under way. As parents who have chosen to enrol their son or daughter at MCCS I ask that you actively support these expectations and policies.

**Bushfires:** We watched with concern, horror and sadness as much of our district was impacted by the bushfires. We are aware of various levels of damage and loss that our families have suffered. Please let me reassure you that there are plans and supports in place to assist your family now, and into the future. I ask that in the coming days and weeks you do not hesitate to see me to discuss how best we can assist your children and family with access to the many financial and emotional supports that are being offered.

**School Counsellor:** Catholic Care provide counselling services to MCCS students. Melissa Bailey will continue this year being at the school every Friday and on alternate Mondays. Students in the Primary School are referred by teachers or parents. Students in Years 7-10 are able to self-refer and see Melissa when they feel a need. We are grateful for the service provided by Catholic Care and grateful for the excellent support Melissa provides to our community.

**New Staff:** We welcome Ms Jennifer Cutcliffe (Year 3/4) and Mr Patrick McCabe (Leave Replacement). Welcome back to Ms Belinda Schirmer following her leave.

**Beginning of School Mass:** Our 2020 Welcome Mass will be held in the MCCS Hall on Wednesday 12 February at 10.00am. All MCCS family and parishioners are invited to join us as we celebrate the beginning of another school year. Please feel free to join us for morning tea following Mass.

**Student Welfare:** As a school we have high expectations of our students, families and staff. This means that we treat each other with mercy, kindness and understanding. Bullying of any kind (verbal, physical, electronic or written) is not acceptable at MCCS. Codes of Professional Conduct are agreed upon at the beginning of each year. Teachers will make clear their expectations of our students and those of the school community in the early days of school. I ask that as a parent you make yourself familiar with our student welfare policies and reinforce them in your homes.

As a Restorative Practice School we work to resolve issues in a fair, non-judgemental and non-threatening way. This does not mean that actions do not have consequences and these may be negotiated with students in situations where they have done the wrong thing. I ask that you support the school and assist your son or daughter to make good choices and work to build and maintain positive relationships with peers and staff.

**Mobile Phone Policy:** MCCS Policy states that all students are to leave mobile phones in school bags or lockers. Phones are not to be used in classrooms or playgrounds. Teachers will give a reasonable reminder before the phone may be confiscated and handed to your child's Classroom teacher or Pastoral teacher for safe keeping and return after class time.

**BYOD:** Students in Years 7-10 are able to take part in the Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD). Laptops should be brought to school fully charged. Even though such devices are personally owned, students are



obliged to follow the ICT agreement signed by each of them. This means that devices, email, websites etc are to be used appropriately and that teachers have the discretion to ask students not to use a device in certain lessons.

**Uniform/Hair:** Current MCCS Uniform Policy is available to parents in various communications and publications. Students are to be in correct and tidy uniform. Teachers may give reasonable reminders before communication is sent home. I ask that you support current uniform policy by insisting that your son or daughter is in correct uniform (including the MCCS hat). Hair should be neat and tidy with extreme styles avoided. Teachers may ask students to tie their hair back at various times. Please also take note of jewellery expectations for both boys and girls.

**Student Absence:** Students are expected to be punctual in arriving at school and to class on time. Parents are asked to avoid taking holidays during term time, as students miss important curriculum content and assessments. All absences should be notified to your child's class/pastoral teacher as soon as possible by email or written note. Late sign in or early sign out should be completed at either Primary or Secondary reception.

**Teacher contacts:** Your child's Classroom teacher/Pastoral teacher are always your first point of contact for questions or concerns. I encourage open and honest communication between staff and families. Always remember there are two sides to a story!

Please respect the professionalism of staff and be sure to arrange appointments out of class time. Teachers will do their best to reply to phone messages and emails in work hours – remembering that they have teaching loads and classes that are a priority.

Teacher's email addresses are in this format: [firstname.lastname@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:firstname.lastname@cg.catholic.edu.au).

**Facebook:** Please "like" us on Facebook as there are often important reminders about school events and expectations posted for your information. Please note that Facebook is intended as a newsfeed not a place to ask questions or make comment about staff, students or issues. Such comments and questions may be deleted and not responded to by the page editors.

**School Newsletter/s:** The MCCS Newsletter is published each fortnight and includes contributions from a number of staff and students K-10. As well as news and reminders it will list upcoming events for your diary. It is important that you and your sons and daughters are well informed and well organised as the year gets underway. Please subscribe to the Schoolzine app to receive notifications of newsletters.

I look forward to getting to know our families and community members over the coming days and weeks. This is an excellent school with a strong reputation and I look forward to working with you in the education of your children.

Mary our Mother, look after us.

Eamonn Moore

**School Principal**

*31 January 2020*