McAuley News

McAuley Community School
A Catholic school in the Mercy tradition

Friday 23 October 2020: Issue 16

LEADERSHIP

Acting Principal, Marianne Loftus & Acting Deputy Principal, Alice Dunlop

As you are aware, Mrs Amanda Parslow was diagnosed with a heart condition late last term and underwent surgery on Wednesday of this week. When we spoke with Mrs Parslow prior to her operation, she asked us to pass on her sincere thanks and deep gratitude to our beautiful community for all your prayers and messages of love and support. I am pleased to let you know that the operation was successful; all went well, and her surgeon is pleased with the outcome. Mrs Parslow is comfortable and doing well. We ask that all in our community continue to keep her and her family in your prayers at this time.

We began our final term with our Staff Reflection Day. Inspired by Pope Francis and Catherine McAuley, we connected with each other, our natural world and our God. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather as a whole staff, reflect on our year, focus on our wellbeing and just 'be'.

Now we find ourselves at the end of Week 2, Term 4! The last term is always a short but busy one. There is so much to look forward to in our lead up to Christmas. We have our Pathway of Discovery on Monday afternoons of Weeks 3, 5 and 9 where our learners will transition into their Neighbourhoods for 2021. Year 6 Camp, Be You Day, Principal Tours, Neighbourhood excursions, our inaugural Sports Day, Blessing of the Cribs Mass, Thanksgiving Mass at the cathedral, Year 6 Graduation and our End of Year Whole School Mass are on the radar, just to name a few – PHEW!

On Monday, at our assembly, the Year 6 Mercy Leaders did a wonderful job introducing the Sports Day chants to the learners and explained beautifully, how they can gather House Mercy points by living our Mercy Keys through all we do in our community.

We are continually monitoring our state's COVID guidelines and all updates we receive from Catholic Education South Australia (CESA), around group gatherings and parents attending school events. Currently we are working very closely with Karyn Kew, our WH&S Coordinator, focussing on parents attending our inaugural Sports Day on Monday 23 November. Please keep this date in your diaries. We are looking forward to celebrating this together as a whole school community and will keep you informed as to the protocols we will need to follow. Thank you for your support and understanding in all we are doing to keep our community safe.

Our educators and Curriculum Support staff began Professional Learning this week on "Our Amazing Brains – Typical Brain Development and Developmental Trauma". We are spending four staff meetings this term, led by Michael Lincoln from CESA, looking at our whole school understanding of the effects of developmental trauma and positive behaviour support. We are very excited about our learning in this area and how it will continue to help us support all children we are privileged to have in our care.

That's it for now. Could it get any busier? Possibly, but we know that we will work together, enjoy this time and celebrate McAuley as the wonderful community we know we are.

FAITH

Alice Dunlop, Acting Deputy Principal

During the month of October, we celebrate the two wonderful Marys in the life of our Church. On Saturday 17 October, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the canonization of Mary MacKillop and the month of October is when we traditionally celebrate the Rosary. The rosary has been one of the best-loved and most highly revered prayers in the Church for many centuries. Catholics often pray the rosary to make a request to God, some to thank God for blessings received or for requesting a special favour, for example if someone is sick to help them recover.

The McAuley community gathered this week to pray the rosary, asking God to keep Mrs Parslow safe and well as she recovers from surgery.

REFLECTION: McAuley Staff Day

Monday 12 October

The whole McAuley Staff gathered for our first reflection day to begin term 4. The theme for the day was Connection. The morning was spent in the Botanic Gardens exploring our connection with the natural world and with God. Following this, we deepened our understanding and connection with Catherine McAuley and our McAuley Way. We then returned to school and ended the day creating Mandalas with a local artist, Sue Norman. You may have seen her mandala creations on the beach at Brighton!

It has been wonderful to see the learners adding to the staff chalk mandalas at the entrance of the school and making connections!

RAISING
HEARTS
AND
MINDS

RAISING **HEARTS** AND **MINDS**

LEARNING: Humanities and Social Science in the 5/6 Neighbourhood

Friday 16 October

This term the year 5/6 Neighbourhood have kicked of their learning with a HASS Inquiry Passion Project. The learners have chosen a topic of interest that excites them and makes them want to engage in their learning. They will identify a concept to research, explore different ways to create something and organise information to share with an audience. There is also an opportunity for learners to extend their thinking and create a business and entrepreneurial component to the project, use our green screen and makerspace to fly high with their thinking.

Using 21st century skill sets such as collaboration, communication, creativity and problem-solving, learners are excited to hopefully present their work to their families in the form of an expo later in the term.

"If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose" Bishop T. D Jakes.

COMMUNITY: Brighton Sand Dunes Project

Thursday 15 October

It was back to Brighton sand dunes for the weeding program as part of our ongoing commitment to the local environment. Once again working alongside local volunteers from the Holdfast Habitat Heroes who guided the learners on how to identify a weed and dig it out properly.

We are so grateful to these dedicated volunteers who work in our community. A special thank you to Alex Gaut, Team Leader Environment and Coast from the City of Holdfast Bay.

RAISING **HEARTS** AND **MINDS**

LEARNING: Water Police visit to the Reception Neighbourhood

Thursday 15 October

Brevet Sergeants, John Anderson and Brett Milsom, from the Water Operations Unit in Semaphore visited to share information on their policing role. The learners enjoyed asking their questions and learning about how they can keep safe in the water. They also learnt about what the Water Police do and how the different features of their boat works. It was such a wonderful afternoon and we even had the gorgeous children from our Early Learning Centre next door, Alive, join us.

This supports the Reception children's learning in Health where they're working on how to *'Identify people and demonstrate protective behaviours and other actions that help keep themselves safe and healthy'* (Australian Curriculum).

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LEARNING: Meet our Art & Design educator

Miss Maddie McGowan

Who doesn't love going to Art Class and who doesn't love Miss McGowan? One of the most creative and kind hearted souls you could know and we are blessed to have her here at McAuley.

It is a full circle moment for Miss McGowan as she is an old scholar of St Teresa's, Marymount and Sacred Heart Senior College. She studied art in these very same rooms under her mentor Mr Gunther Stopa and he inspired her life long love of art and design.

"He made art so meaningful for me and walking into a lesson I always knew it was going to be magical," said Miss McGowan.

It was her desire to introduce the same magic she felt in his lessons that inspired Miss McGowan to find a way to switch from her Fine Arts degree to study to be a primary school teacher so she could specialise in Visual Arts. Studying in Perth at the time, she enrolled at the Notre Dame University in Fremantle. It was during this time that Miss McGowan fell in love with ceramics and pottery as she worked closely with artists in residence at a local studio.

Luckily for McAuley students Miss McGowan has been sharing her love of pottery with the Neighbourhoods this semester and they have been producing small sculptures and vessels and experimenting with joinery and surface decoration.

"I love clay more than anything. It makes me feel calm and connected. I hope to share this with the learners too," said Miss McGowan.

When travelling and visiting the Peggy Guggenheim Collection Museum in Venice, Miss McGowan was inspired by the contemporary art. The Musée d'Orsay in Paris appealed to her love of surrealist art and showcased the art she had studied at school and university.

The Tate Modern Art Gallery in London has a comprehensive range of art though it is the large-scale art installations that Miss McGowan is excited to incorporate the concept into the Plaza at McAuley in a much smaller scale of course!

"The learners are so creative coming up with designs and solutions. They are creating art with meaning. Sometimes I am more of a facilitator than an educator as they are like young artists."

This year the art and design processes has included a mix of technical and imaginative drawing, painting, printmaking, pottery, clay work, STEM design sculptures, mould casting, plastering and paper sculptures. This term woodwork begins for the first time.

RAISING **HEARTS** AND **MINDS**

LEARNING: The Joy of Reading

Term 4

Our Book Week celebrations began this week with various neighbourhood activities and stories. This year's theme is 'Curious Creatures Wild Minds'. The shortlisted books can be found here.

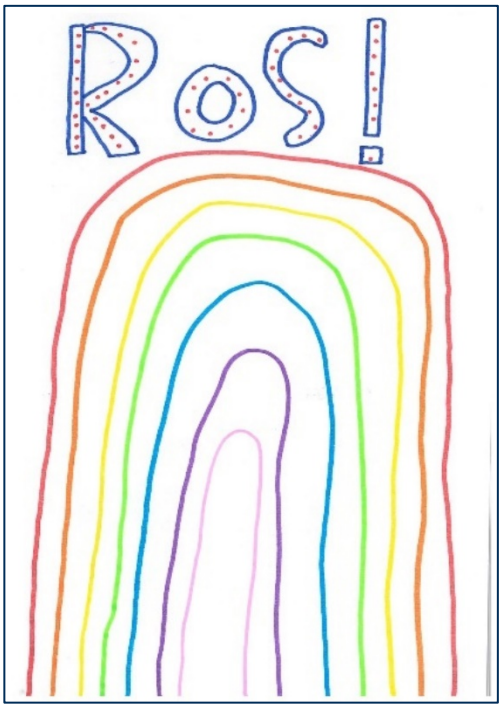
Throughout the month of November, we will also celebrate Australia reads. To honour this, we will have our Book Week Parade on Tuesday 10 November. For this parade, learners are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character from a book. Dressing up can be simple and optional. If choosing to dress up, we ask learners to bring along the book that contains their favourite character for the parade.

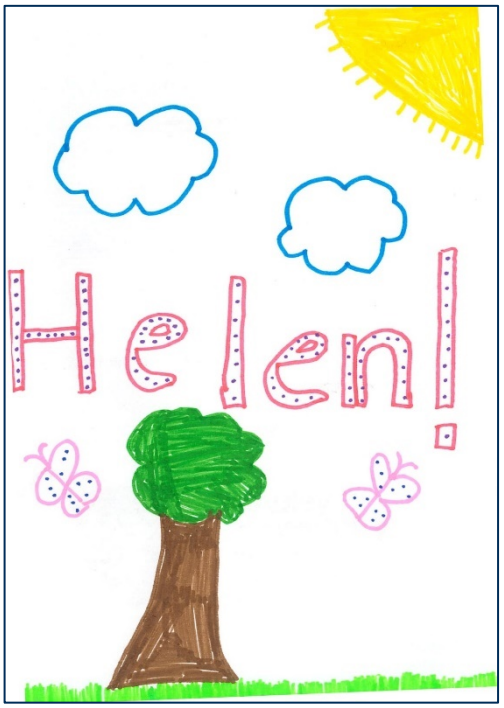
At the end of November, we will award certificates and medals for the Premier's Reading Challenge.

COMMUNITY: Townsend Park Birthday cards

Thursday 1 October

It was time to say Happy Birthday to some of the residents from Townsend Park. We are looking forward to less COVID times when we can be more engaged with our neighbours and have them visit McAuley.





PRINCIPAL'S TOUR

Wednesday 4 November from 5pm-6pm & Saturday 7 November from 10am-11am

Our final Principal's Tour for 2020 will be held in November on two dates hosted by Mrs Loftus and Mrs Dunlop.

Please mention to any family or friends interested in McAuley that they are very welcome to visit on one of these days and to register click here. To manage visitors on the day and to comply with COVID regulations, guests need to arrive 15 minutes before the start time to sign in.

Alive, our Early Learning Centre next door is also offering tours with Head of Early Learning Paula Hanna. Registration is also on the McAuley website.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday 10 November

We will be celebrating Book Week and the Joy of Reading throughout the whole of Term 4. Our Book Week Parade will be held on Tuesday 10 November. Learners dressing up in their favourite character from a book is optional and unfortunately parents will not be able to attend this event due to COVID regulations.

To support the Joy of Reading the P&F has organised a Scholastic Book Fair themed Artic Adventures from Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 November in the McAuley Gym. Shopping hours will be 8:15-8:45am and 3:00-3:25pm and all purchases will benefit the school. We encourage you to pop in and have a look at the selection – with sanitized hands and staying socially distanced of course!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday 23 November

The inaugural McAuley Sports Day will be held on-site at Mawson Oval from 8:30am-1pm. Learners may wear a plain coloured t-shirt or polo shirt in their House colour.

Further details will be posted on SkoolBag next week.

CONTACT US

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