McAuley News

McAuley Community School
A Catholic school in the Mercy tradition

Friday 2 July 2021: Issue 6

LEADERSHIP

Acting Co-Principals, Pauline Kinsman & Anne McGowan

We have been reading the semester one reports, supported by Alice and Jess, which have been sent home today. We are so impressed with the deep knowledge educators have of their learners, both academically and personally. They truly want the best outcomes for the learners as they adjust the teaching and learning to accommodate their needs. McAuley Community School is a vibrant learning community that is aspiring for excellence in education.

We are very fortunate to have such talented specialist educators at McAuley who provide engaging learning activities in very well resourced rooms and outside learning spaces. Our specialists learning areas are Visual Art, Music, Physical Education and we offer two Languages - Italian for Reception to Year 2 and Japanese for Year 3 to Year 6. Many other Catholic primary schools would love to be able to offer the McAuley experience.

We organise learning across the school by having two hours of uninterrupted learning time for Literacy and Numeracy in the morning and then wrap around our specialist lessons. The learners have all their specialist lessons on the same day and this provides the educators in each Neighbourhood four hours of uninterrupted time to plan. We believe this structure allows quality time for collaborative planning, professional learning and reflection.

The McAuley community has a very strong focus on Social Justice as is evident in many fundraising and outreach programs, such as Mini Vinnies, the Passion Projects, market stalls and the Pyjama Day fundraiser that was held today. These programs are successful because of the partnership between families and the school and the wonderful role modelling that you do as parents. Thank you for your generosity and we hope that you receive blessings in return.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish every family a relaxing two week holiday together.

FAITH

APRIM, Alice Dunlop

Sacramental Program

Our Year 5/6 learners prepared and celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 24 June and Tuesday 29 June. This was a beautiful celebration of the Holy Spirit reflecting on how God's grace and love are working in our lives. Learners chose a sponsor and a Saint to support, inspire and guide them on this journey. The Saint they chose became their Confirmation name.

Journey to Emmaus

On Friday 25 June, Year 6 students from St Martin De Porres, Christ the King, St Bernadette's and Stella Maris joined with our Year 6 learners for day one of the Journey to Emmaus Program.
This day was led by our Southern Cluster Youth Ministry Team and revolved around the theme of "Jesus Walking With Us". The theme intended to highlight the fact that our journeys are always shared, both with other people and with Jesus. Getting to know others was also a really important focus of the day, emphasising that the journey towards middle school is shared with new friends.

LEARNING: Reception Neighbourhood Physical Education

Tuesday 15 June

The early years Physical Education curriculum allows learners to participate in play with a purpose. Opportunities are given for learners to learn through movement, games and target skills that can be transferred to a range of sports. The fundamental skills taught provide the foundation of more complex skills and movements needed, as well as the confidence necessary to engage in sports in older years.

We are fortunate to have professional sport clinics visit each term with Tennis held in Term One, Softball in Term Two, Soccer for Term Three and Basketball for Term Four, for each year level.

Here, a Reception class is having the first of three professional sessions in softball skills. There was lots of excitement whenever anyone caught (or hit!) the ball.

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

LEARNING: 1/2 Neighbourhood Music

Wednesday 16 June

McAuley prides itself on its authentic music program led by Head of Music, Ryan Mifsud. Supported by a team of 12 instrumental tutors offering private music lessons in singing, piano, classical and bass guitar, saxophone, clarinet, flute and more. Did you know almost half of McAuley takes private music lessons?

Every class has a 45 minute lesson each week with the option to participate in one of 3 different choirs - the 1/2 Choir, the Primary Years Choir and the Festival Choir.

During music lessons this term, the 1/2 Neighbourhood has been exploring harmony, rhythm, beat and patterns through learning to play the ukulele. Each learner has had the opportunity to develop chord playing on the ukulele each week and to work in pairs and groups to record each other performing simple songs.

Developing confidence, passion and musicianship are all important parts of the development of a musician and integral to the music curriculum lessons each week. The learners have been incredibly resilient throughout their learning as the ukulele can be difficult with young fingers. They have loved exploring this instrument, starting with which colour are they going to pick each week, and have grown as musicians over the course of the unit.

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

LEARNING: 3/4 Neighbourhood Japanese

Thursday 17 June

Italian is taught in Reception and Years 1&2 and Japanese in Years 4 to 6. Every week there is a 45 minute language lesson to look forward to.

Our Japanese educator, Amanda Measday, believes that understanding culture is a large part of learning a language.

"Content in context' is a catchphrase that is often used by language teachers," said Mrs Measday.

In her 3/4 class, the learners this term have been exploring the importance of heroes and legends in Japanese culture and how the stories link the past to the present in their motifs, characters and morals.

They have been analysing various folk legends and common Japanese phrases found in these stories. Working in teams, they recreate these stories by the written word, visual art or performing art. Some teams have transferred their knowledge to give their story a twist by changing the setting or characters. There are some budding actors and directors in Japanese!

LEARNING: 5/6 Neighbourhood Visual Art

Friday 25 June

In Year 5/6 they have been studying the collaborative artwork of art-duo Adam Frezza and Terry Chaio; an incredible artistic team commissioned by the likes of Coachella Festival to bring their uplifting and colourful sculptural works to the masses. Their work using foam, paper pulp clay and fluorescent colour schemes is a celebration of nature and its weird wonder.

Learners have designed plant-like sculptures, created armatures, used recycled paper to make paper-pulp clay to coat their sculptures and then finally add the bright and beautiful colours that are a signature for these quirky artists.

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

COMMUNITY: Planting of our Reconciliation Garden

Sunday 20 June

Sunday was a happy day for our Sustainability Educator Danielle Carr as stage one of our Reconciliation Garden was planted having won a Department of Water and Environment Grant.

After working closely with Kaurna Elder Uncle Tamaru and learners of indigenous descent, the following five native plants were selected for our space:

- 40 Karkalla (bush tucker, leaves and fruits are eaten)
- 60 Ruby Red (bush tucker, produces berries with a crisp, salty-sweet flavour)
- 1 Grass Tree (resin used as adhesive)
- 15 Knobby Clubrush (used for weaving)
- 5 Old Man's Saltbush (bush tucker, used like leafy greens)

Thank you to all the families who rolled up their sleeves and joined us on the morning.

SPORT: The Glenelg Metro Crows Cup Carnival

Wednesday 16 June

On a particularly cold and windy Wednesday in June, 20 girls from the 5/6 Neighbourhood represented McAuley at the Glenelg Metro Crows Cup Carnival which was held at Westminster School.

Did you know:

- They had only had one training session?
- Only three on the team play AFL?
- They finished 4th overall out of 18 teams?

They enthusiastically played 5 games of 20 minutes each and only lost one game.

After the final game, the opposition coach chased our Sports Coordinator Megan Haddrick down to say "Those McAuley girls should be very proud of themselves as they never gave up and were such good sports on and off the field."

All we can say is, there must have been magic in that one training session with Reception educator and AFLW South Adelaide player, Lauren Buchanan. Well done coach and girls. The Mercy Keys of Courage and Respect go to you!

Team Photo (left)

Back L - R: Maya F-W, Lilah E, Charli R, Abby M, Lauren Buchanan, Matilda B, Lauren C, Matilda S, Skyla M

Front L - R: Norah V, Evie B, Maddy S, Pamela T, Milan T, Grace D

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

MUSIC: Choir visit to Recording Studio

Wednesday 9 June

Our Head of Music, Ryan Mifsud, organised an excursion to Mixmasters Studio in Hawthorndene for the Year 5/6 Festival Choir to record vocal tracks for local musician Michael Farcich. This was officially voted the 'coolest' excursion of the year as they recorded melodies, harmonies and backings over different songs.

Having practised at school in the lead up to the big day, just like in real life, it took many takes to ensure the perfect sound.

It was a great learning experience to see how a studio works, the role of different types of microphones and equipment and the opportunity to connect with local musicians.

Once the recording is mixed and mastered it will be available to parents and the public.

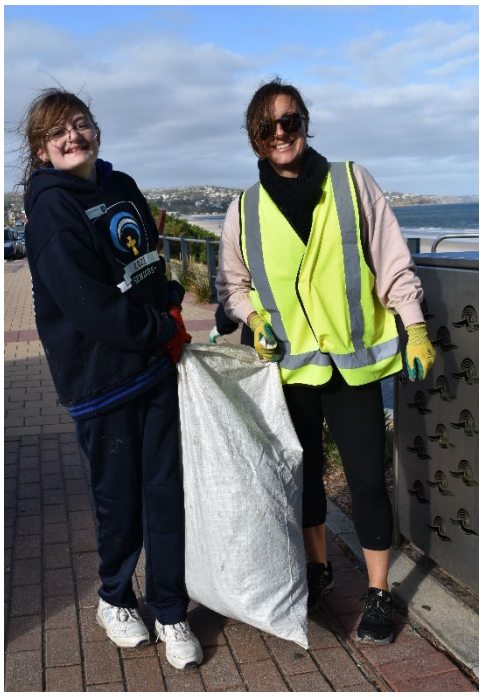
RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

COMMUNITY: Brighton Sand Dunes project

Thursday 10 June

A group of Year 5/6 learners happily walked to Brighton Beach to take care of weeding around the seedlings that had been planted last year. Some were harder to pull out than others and took a team effort!

They managed to fill bags and bags of weed refuse and loaded them on the back of the ute.
We are grateful to the City of Holdfast Bay and Cr Clare Lindop for this ongoing ecological opportunity for the learners.



SPORT: South Australia Primary School's Amateur Sporting Association

Tuesday 15 June

It was girl power all the way with Chloe McArdle and Alexis Thiele representing McAuley in sport this term.

Chloe McArdle, Year 6, trialled in 3 competitions over 3 weeks at Paringa to win a spot in the South West Year 6 Netball Team. Her team competed in the SAPSASA State Netball Carnival at Priceline Stadium over three days from 2-4 June. The good news is – they won!

"My legs were like jelly after playing netball for three days," said Chloe.

Alexis Thiele, Year 5, competed in the South West District Cross Country Champs to trial for the opportunity to race in the South West district team. She needed a top four finish to qualify and came in 3rd. As a member of the South West district team, she ran her heart out in the gruelling 3 km Cross Country State Championships on Thursday 10 June and finished 35th from a field of nearly 170 girls with a PB of 13.59 minutes.

"This was one of the best experiences of my life. I loved it," said Alexis.

Photo (right & far right)

Alexis Thiele & Chloe McArdle

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

COMMUNITY: Our Mini Vinnies

Friday 18 June

Thank you to our wonderful families for your generosity supporting our recent St Vincent de Paul food drive. Our Mini Vinnies proudly collected the food from each Neighbourhood which was gratefully received by Liz Kelton from the Brighton conference of St Vincent de Paul:

"As usual, the response from your families has been overwhelming. Your donations have helped top up our store cupboards for the busy winter season and will provide much needed assistance to many families.

We rely on donations such as those from McAuley to continue our work. Thank you to everyone at McAuley Community School. God bless."

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Important Dates in Term 3 2021

Monday 26 July (Week 2) – Year 5/6 Assembly

Tuesday 3 August (Week 3) – Learning Conversations, 3.30 – 7.30pm

Wednesday 4 August (Week 3) – Learning Conversations, 3.30 – 5.30pm

Thursday 5 August (Week 3) – Learning Conversations, 3.30 – 5.30pm

Monday 9 August (Week 4) – Year 3/4 Assembly

Monday 23 August (Week 5) – Year 1/2 Assembly

Monday 20 September (Week 10) – Reception Assembly

SCHOOL TERM DATES

2021 Term Dates

Term 3: 19 July – 24 September

Term 4: 11 October – 8 December

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