

Virtue Awards – Term 3



Mr Jim Ford | College Principal

What Is Value For Money

At present the cost of educating a student in Queensland, irrespective of sector, is between \$17k and \$18k for a secondary student. State schools get this fully funded, Catholic schools get considerably less and must make up the shortfall (school fees).

Governments generally save money by Catholic and Independent schools being less expensive and parents contributing. So, is there value in persisting with Catholic education? A couple of basic questions will answer this reasonable question.

1. Is your child happy to come to school (friends are very important)?
2. Are the teachers nice (professional and caring)?
3. Is the school tough on bullying and misbehaviour?
4. Do you get the right feel when you visit (welcoming with energy)?

Peace of mind and confidence in your child's educational progress is beyond value. Hopefully your local Catholic school can give you that.

Ms Kate Rackham | Acting Assistant Principal Mission

October: Month of the Holy Rosary

In the Catholic tradition, October is a time when we are reminded of the powerful role of prayer in our lives, especially through the Rosary. This beautiful devotion encourages us to slow down and reflect on the life of Christ and His mother, Mary. For parents and students, the Rosary can be more than just a prayer - it can be a way to find balance in a busy world. By setting aside a few moments each day to pray and reflect on the Rosary, we can bring a sense of calm, purpose and mindfulness into our daily routines, helping us to navigate life's challenges.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, on October 7, is a special opportunity to honour Mary's intercession and reflect on her example of faith. Just as she said "yes" to God, we are reminded to trust in God's plan for our lives. As a family, this feast day can serve as a reminder to seek Mary's help in times of difficulty, to lean into our faith when faced with uncertainties, offering our thoughts, worries and hopes to God through Mary. By celebrating this feast and embracing the Rosary, we can nurture a spiritual connection that supports us in living with intention, resilience and faith each day.



Mr Christ Apelt | Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

Work Experience

Work experience is a vital opportunity for young students to gain practical insights and develop key skills that will support their future career pathways. In 2025, all Year 10 students will participate in work experience, with placements ideally taking place in Week 5 of Term 2. Students are encouraged to take ownership of this process by organising their own work experience hosts. This hands-on involvement allows them to explore industries that interest them, while building responsibility and independence.

As parents, your support is essential during this time. The upcoming Christmas holidays offer a perfect opportunity for students to begin researching and contacting potential employers. Whether their interests lie in healthcare, trades, business, technology, or the arts, early exploration will help secure a meaningful placement.

If students have any questions about the process, they are encouraged to email the Senior Pathways Coordinator for guidance. More detailed information will be provided to both students and parents in the coming weeks to ensure everyone is well-prepared. Encouraging your child to engage in work experience not only builds their confidence but helps them make informed decisions about their future career path.



Mr David Paul | Assistant Principal Wellbeing

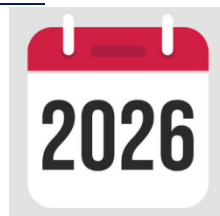
Effects of Social Media on Children

Social Media age restrictions are in the news at the moment, and it is very important we support our young ones while they navigate through this very complex area. Below is a link to one of the **most powerful articles** I have read on the topic, I implore every parent to read this and share it with other parents.

Click [here](#) to read this important article.

ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7 IN 2026

Parents and Guardians of children currently in Year 5 who wish to be part of our Catherine McAuley College community are reminded to complete enrolment applications for Year 7 in 2026 by March 2025! Interviews will commence in March 2025, with siblings of current students being interviewed first.



Siblings of current CMC students are not automatically enrolled; an application must be submitted.

Please do not hesitate to contact the College with any queries relating to enrolment. Visit our website to complete an enrolment application form **once you have received your child's Year 5 Semester 1 & 2 school reports.** <https://cmcmrok.catholic.edu.au>



MEGA DRAW - \$1000 Prize

Win \$1000 in CMC Mega Draw! \$20 a ticket

If you can't make the CMC Trivia night and want to support the school, purchase tickets [here](#) to go into the MEGA draw!

But!!!!!! If you're at the trivia on Friday 18 October and you've purchased a ticket in the MEGA draw, then you could take home \$1500!!!!

BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!!!!!

Mrs Kathy Parrish | College Board Chair

October Board Report

The October board meeting was a full agenda with discussion on the following topics:

- 2025 All Inclusive School Fee
- Parent Information Bulletins for new families in 2025
- Prospective Senior Uniform update
- Stage 3 Capital Round Letter of Offer to commence new buildings in 2025 to be ready at the start of 2026 year
- Stage 4 Capital/Enrolment Strategic Plan – the final phase of building
- CEO Board Support

PD Presentation:

Mr Jim Ford, Principal, commenced the start of a series of presentations on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The board will be aiming to discuss one habit per meeting and are very interested in understanding what it takes to be an effective person.

Principals report:

Term 3 finished with a very busy schedule including: Science Week, Cape Hillsborough excursion, Youth Council Elections, Book Week Dress Up, Formation Day for staff, Fitness Games, McAuley Week cultural showcase and Beach Day.

Term 4 promises to be a busy term with the following upcoming events: Year 9 Guest Speaker – Chloe McArdle, Catholic Primary School visits, Final round of staff recruitment for 2025, CMC Gospel Group, Principals Review and Astronomy night.

Don't forget the annual CMC Trivia Night is on the Friday 18 October. There are still a few tables left, so jump in and grab a ticket for what is a very entertaining evening.

Student Achievements

Bowling Them Over

Holley received the John Carr Memorial Coaches encouragement award and tied for the Open Girls Sportsmanship award at the 2024 North Queensland Allan Russell Intercity Challenge held in Townsville. Job well done Holley!



Wearing The Crown

Jennifer-Lee participated in the Fashion vs Beauty Double Header Miss Diamond and Miss Photogenic Australia and was crowned Miss Emerald International. She also received a Silver certificate for charity. Nice work Jennifer-Lee!



CMC Instrumental and Performance Program 2025

Music and the Performing Arts play a significant role in the life of Catherine McAuley College, we actively encourage our students to engage in our Co-curricular Instrumental Music and Performance Program. To enrol your child in our 2025 program, please click this [link](#) to fill out the google form.



Non State Schools – Transport Assistance Scheme

Non State Schools Transport Assistance Scheme

Student Travel Rebates

Semester 2

Bus Fare Assistance

- Does your child attend a **non-state school** outside the Brisbane City Council boundary?
- Does your **family** spend more than \$25/week* on bus/ferry fares to and from school (*\$15/week if you, the parent, hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a **publicly available service** not owned or chartered by the school?

Students With Disability

- Was your child **included on the latest Commonwealth Census** as a student with a disability requiring **supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustments**?
- Does your child's **Personalised Learning Plan** confirm their transport needs are demonstrably different to those of their same aged peers by reason of their disability?
- Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's **Travel Capability Rating** as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for our financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and apply at SchoolTransport.com.au during October. Late applications cannot be accepted after 31st October.



Invitation for Astronomy Viewing Evening



ASTRONOMY VIEWING EVENING INVITATION

Who: CMC Students & Parents

When: Sunday 3 November

Where: Greenmount Road (last driveway before the Homestead)

Time: 6:00 - 9:00pm

What to bring: Chair, Binoculars, Torch, Snacks and Picnic Rug

Features: Saturn, crescent moon, Jupiter (late)
Constellations: Pegasus, Pisces, Taurus, Capricornus
Deep Sky: Andromeda Galaxy, Globular clusters

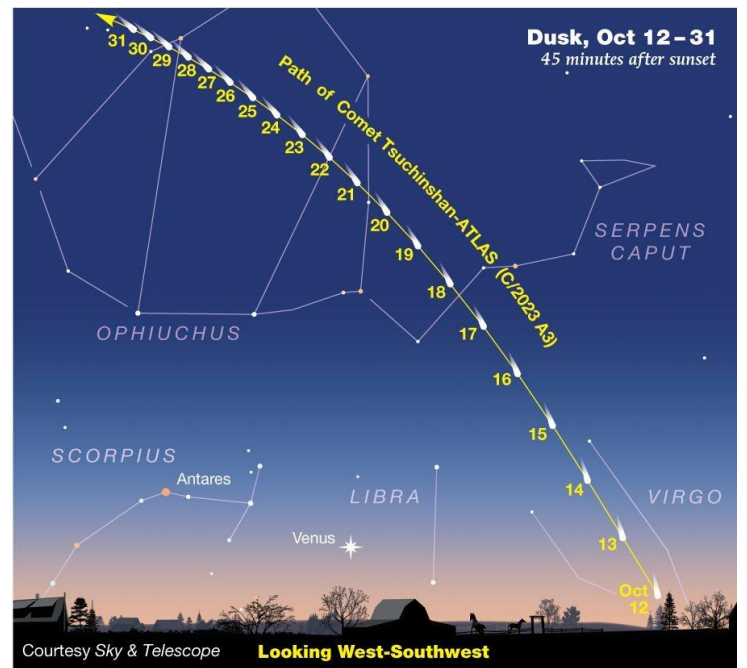
Notes:

- Telescopes provided by the College and participating local enthusiasts
- Students must be accompanied by an adult guardian

RSVP: Wednesday 30 October
Email our Science Technician Mrs Narelle Nash narelle_nash@rok.catholic.edu.au or phone 4994 9200

From the Principal: We look forward to seeing you there - Jim Ford

QUOTE: "On a clear night when you look up it changes your perspective on things"



Quote

"...should we not then undertake our duties with great courage, for infinite is the love God bears to souls who repose in His protection."

Catherine McAuley



Student Representative Council

Last week during assembly our SRC students were presented with their 2024 badges.



Fitness Games Champions



- 12 Girls:**
1st Madison, 2nd Magenta, 3rd Lilah
- 12 Boys:**
1st Jackson, 2nd Louis, 3rd Van
- 12 Girls:**
1st Ruby, 2nd Sienna and Lilly
- 13 Boys:**
1st Ethan, 2nd Winston, 3rd Jaben
- 14 Girls:**
1st Eliza, 2nd Riley, 3rd Georgia
- 14 Boys:**
1st Danny, 2nd Caleb, 3rd Riley



Date Claimers Term 3

- Friday 18 October – PEG Trivia Night
- Saturday 19 October – St Francis Gospel Group
- Saturday 16 November – St Francis Gospel Group
- Wednesday 27 November – Year 9 Excursion Sugar Shed
- Thursday 28 November – Year 7 2025 Orientation Day
- Tuesday 3 December – 9:00am Mass of Thanksgiving
- Thursday 5 December – 6:00pm Awards Ceremony
- Friday 6 December – Last day Students Depart 11:30am
- Friday 6 December – 12:00pm Staff Lunch

Mrs Frances Deguara | Café Convenor

 Café Roster			
Week 3	Date	Volunteers	
Tuesday	October 15	Natalie Kelly	Volunteer Needed
Wednesday	October 16	Liz Lyons	Kevene Albert
Thursday	October 17	Nerissa Pashley	Volunteer Needed
Friday	October 18	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Week 4	Date	Volunteers	
Tuesday	October 22	Natalie Kelly	Volunteer Needed
Wednesday	October 23	Liz Lyons	Volunteer Needed
Thursday	October 24	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Friday	October 25	Monica Plath	Caroline Sandral

Community Notices

2024 NATIONAL PARENT SURVEY







Catholic School Parents
AUSTRALIA

HAVE YOUR SAY

Catholic School Parents Australia is listening.

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) acknowledges the funding received from the Australian Government to support this work.

The CSPA 2024 Parent Survey on Student Wellbeing and Learning is seeking your perspective as parents/carers of children who attend a Catholic School in Australia.

You are invited to share your views on existing and emerging affirmations and/or challenges in relation to your child's wellbeing and learning. Please consider completing this anonymous, confidential, and completely voluntary online survey.

Click on the survey link or scan the QR code for more information about the study, how to participate, and how to have questions answered.

Scan QR code above for Parent Survey

St Mary's CHRISTMAS FAIR



SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

5:30PM - 9:00PM

42 JULIET STREET SOUTH MACKAY

BURGERS
SAUSAGE ON BREAD
HOT DOGS & HOT CHIPS
SNOW CONES, POP CORN
& FAIRY FLOSS
SWEET STALL
FACE PAINTING
RIDES & JUMPING CASTLES

BAR & LIVE MUSIC
MINI CENT SALE
MAJOR RAFFLE
LUCKY NUMBERS
HAM WHEEL
(STARTING AT 6PM)
SANTA WILL BE VISITING!

