13 November 2020

Tena koutou katoa, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, Ni sa bula, Marhaba, Namaste, Mabuhay.

It is certainly the busy end of the school year. We have celebrated a lovely Thanksgiving Mass and farewelled our Year 13 as part of the ceremony. Senior prizegiving was a fantastic evening. Our girls are achieving outstanding results and it is great to be able to acknowledge some of them. I was particularly impressed with the number of tertiary scholarships that students have been awarded. $200,000 worth of scholarships came to McAuley. Congratulations to those very worthy recipients and congratulations to our Dux of 2020, Juana Pahulu.

I would like to thank Ms Bridget Houghton, Deputy Principal, for her superb organisation and also the staff who were involved in the smooth running of the evening. It really was a wonderful celebration. In a change of tradition, the Prefects for 2021 were also announced, and I congratulate the 22 students selected for this leadership position.

Year 9 and 10 have their examinations next week and then they have only two more weeks of school. It is important that they keep upholding the high expectations we have of them for the rest of the term. Being on time to school, in the correct uniform, bringing their device and equipment and a ready to learn attitude all contributes to success for students.

Year 11 - 13 are on exam leave. Our expectation is that, until their very last exam, girls are studying either at school or at home. It is not a time to be socialising - that can happen all summer! Please ensure your senior student knows exactly when their exams are, and are prepared. They should be aiming for excellence and endorsements in both subjects and overall. We look forward to outstanding results from them.

November in the Catholic church is the month of the Holy Souls. It is a time when we pray for those who have gone before us. It is a very rich tradition in our church and even in the Old Testament, prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead. It is a wonderful way to keep remembering our loved ones.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Domine in te speravi.

Jan Waelen
Principal
Student Leaders 2021

Congratulations to our Student Leaders and Prefect Team for 2021.

Head Girls  
Angela Filimoehala and Mahalia Salesa

Deputy Head Girls  
Bethel-Rose Lameta-Sione and Monette Macdonald

Prefect Team  

Thanksgiving Mass

Year 12 farewelled the Year 13 leavers with a haka after Thanksgiving Mass.
Staff News

This term we welcomed Mrs Victoria Sarah to our staff as Deputy Principal. Mrs Sarah was at McLeans College previously. Her subject specialty is Te Reo Maori and we are delighted with the energy, ideas and wisdom that she has brought to us.

Special Character

TUTAKI - Encountering Christ
November is the month that Catholics pray for those who have died. We believe that just as we can pray for those who are experiencing difficulties in this life, we can pray for those who are still journeying to be with God, but have died without total healing for their souls. We pray

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
And let your perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace*

TUTAKI - Thanksgiving Mass
On Friday the 6th November we had our annual Thanksgiving Mass. It is the farewell to our Year 13 students who we send on Mission to live their Values in life after secondary school. We all have much to be grateful for, and even though it has been a difficult year, we are safe. We wish the Seniors well in their external exams and ask for God’s blessings on our school leavers.

WHAKAATU - Christian Witness
On Friday the 23rd October, a group of senior students represented McAuley High School at the funeral Mass for Father Martin Wu’s father, Tony Wu. We were honoured to be invited to provide a reader for the first reading. We thank Juana Pahulu who proclaimed the scripture passage from Ephesians with clarity and meaning.

We pray for Father Martin and his family at this time.

Mercy Awards
This year’s Mercy Award recipients were honoured at our final full school assembly. Our traditional celebrations were not able to happen this year so presentations were delayed until now. The Mercy Award is a very special service award and this year’s recipients, two students and two staff, are very deserving.

Folauhola Fohe has shown her Mercy spirit with her actions towards other people. Her consistently positive attitude and simply getting involved, showed her Mercy spirit to help those in need.

Marilyn Singh has a consistent history of leadership in Gospel and Mercy Values, and has shone as a Social Justice Leader this year. Marilyn has supported the Catholic Special Character of the school showing that her faith is very much alive, especially the Gospel and Mercy Value of Awhina.
Mrs Patricia Mabey, is a wonderful asset to McAuley High School. She shows true Mercy spirit each day in her dealings with our students and their families. Her supportive, sympathetic nature, and her sense of humour are a blessing. To her, being at McAuley is more than a job, it is an expression of her strong and enduring Catholic faith.

Mrs Cecilia Airey is an outstanding example of panekiretanga, the Mercy Value of excellence. She is by nature highly competitive, but she is also highly collaborative. She reaches out to different groups within the staff, collaborating and co-opting them to join in activities for the good of all students. Cecilia has been a real asset in the ever-changing reality that has been 2020.

Aimhi Awards
David Maka has served on the Board of Trustees at McAuley High school for many years. He originally served as a parent representative for three terms of office (9 years) a number of years ago, and then came back onto the Board as staff representative for the last four years. David is a reliable voice at the Board table. He is in touch with staff, parents and students so brings a well rounded perspective to discussions.

Mrs Finau makes a positive contribution and gives outstanding service to the school community. She is always available to support staff, and is always prepared to do relief cover on top of her Dean responsibilities, and is a role model for staff members inside and outside the classroom. Mrs Finau is firm but fair, consistent, and kind to all students in terms of providing discipline, counselling and guidance. Her community connections and networking are key to the school’s successful relationship with the Tongan community. Mrs Finau gets consistent outstanding NCEA results for the Tongan subject every year (over 90% pass rate).

Mrs Robertson has been Sports Co-ordinator at McAuley High School for over 20 years, and we are lucky to have kept such a dedicated person for that long. She is committed to providing a wide range of sports and as many opportunities for student participation as possible. The Sports Office is a busy place, but Mrs Robertson makes sure that it is efficiently organised and well-run. She spends many hours preparing information, letters, permission slips etc for students, their families and coaches, as well as organising trials, selections, registrations, uniforms and transport. And Mrs Roberston doesn’t finish for the day until the last student has been collected.

For their service to McAuley High School, we thank them and congratulate them on receiving an Aimhi Award.
Senior Prizegiving
The achievements of our senior students were celebrated at senior prizegiving this week. Congratulations to the following who are our highest achieving academic students:

Dux and Top Year 13 student: Juana Pahulu
Proxime Accessit and second overall in Year 13: Menorah Leatigaga
Top Year 12 student: Angela Filimoehala
Top Year 11 student: Claudia Vaotuua

Academic Excellence Award for the top five Year 13 students:
Airi Ishida, Menorah Leatigaga, Isabella Maletino, Juana Pahulu, Melessa Lemapu Tenari Pese

Academic Excellence Award for the top five Year 12 students:
Angela Filimoehala, Monette Macdonald, Rosemary Oppatt, Genevieve Pedebone, Mahalia Salesa

Academic Excellence Award for the top five Year 11 students:
Telesia Mafi, Litiasha Schmidt-Sopoaga, Siotara Neria Stowers, Vaiga Purcell, Claudia Vaotuua

The following were recognised for service in their various leadership and service roles in 2020:
Lusia Tapui, Savannah Tuiafitu, Cilia-Marie Po’e-Tofaeno, Frances Sa’u, Rose-Noelle Patolo, Folauhola Fohe, Paradice Tarapa, Juana Pahulu, Carol Agafili, Haven Tofa, Maria Hughes, Seriya Aioso-Tuitama, Grace Collins, Harmony Iakopo, Iliganoa Taito, Mele Hifo, Dunmore Kama, Dafena Fepuleai Peni, Ursola Eteru Fuaiiefau, Margaret Bartley, Jennifer Huynh, Helena Mikaio, Marilyn Singh, Fifita Fuimaono, Theresa Viane, Brigid-Anne Sifakula, Ruby Lilo, Mary Lale, Leanna Petelo, Juweriya Nazir, Victory Vitolio, Agnes Carter.
Whakarangatira
Whakarangatira badges are awarded by form teachers for students who show respect in whatever form. Sometimes it might be the quietest student, who diligently does everything required of them, without being a shining light. The October recipients of the Whakarangatira badges are:

Important dates
- NCEA Exams - Monday 16 November to Wednesday 9th December.
- Year 9 and 10 exams - Monday 16 November to Wednesday 18 November.
- Teacher Only Day - Thursday 19 November (this is across the city to allow for teachers to plan for NCEA changes).
- Junior Prizegiving - Friday 4th December. Last day of school for Juniors.
- Teacher Only Day - Monday 7 December.

**IMPORTANT NOTE**
Teacher Only Day - Thursday 19 November

This is a day across the city for teachers to plan for NCEA changes.

Free and Healthy Lunches
Starting in April 2021, we will be supplying lunches as part of the government’s Ka Ora, Ka Ako healthy school lunches programme. Ka Ora, Ka Ako is about being healthy and well in order to be in a good place to learn. The programme aims to reduce food insecurity by providing access to a healthy and nutritious lunch in school every day. A number of options will be available each day and will be based on the Ka Ora, Ka Ako nutrition guidelines and the Ministry of Health’s healthy food and drink guidance for schools. Lunches will be available to all students but will not be compulsory and families can continue to supply their own lunches if they choose.

Sports News
The Sports Department was to be busy with junior sports in Term 4 but due to other schools’ teams withdrawing from some competitions, and some rather bad weather, a number of games had to be cancelled.

On Wednesday 28th October a team attended the Ki o Rahi Juniors Tournament held at Botany Downs College. This is a new sport that we introduced to the department and the team was excited to be participating, and to watch the day unfold with girls, boys and mixed teams taking part. They all had a great day and drew their two games in pool play and were placed third.

On Thursday 29th October, our Tag Junior Zonal Tournament team won one game, drew two and lost one. The team was placed 4th in their pool on the day. They have started their weekly competition games at Otahuhu College Memorial Fields, and will play through until 2nd December. They are enjoying their games with some good results coming through.

The Junior Touch Zone Tournament due to be held on Wednesday 4th November, was cancelled due to lack of entries. However, we will be playing for a position at the Auckland Junior Championships against Wesley College within the next 10 days. The Championships are to be held on the 1st December.

The Auckland Junior Softball Tournament was cancelled due to bad weather on Wednesday 4th November.

The Auckland Junior Volleyball Championships are currently being played at Bruce Pulman Park, Takanini.
The Cricket Festival Day has been cancelled.

We are hoping to organise games for the teams that have not been able to play their Tournament games, and parents will be notified if this is able to go ahead. After such an up and down year the girls are hoping they can finish the year with a great game of sport.

● You are always more than welcome to book in to see Mrs Fiaola if you would like to talk about future plans for study and/or work. Please go to the website [https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the code g83fk. She is here until December 4th and even after we finish for the year, she will respond to emails throughout the Christmas and New Year break. So please don’t be shy, book or email with your queries and concerns.

● If you are looking for a job, please know that at this time, you will be looking for jobs alongside many who have lost theirs, many during and after lockdown. If you have applied in the past and have not heard back, or received the bad news that you "were unsuccessful", be patient, and be mindful of what has, and still is, going on around you and something will come. The 3 P's in job searching is key; patience, perseverance and persistence.

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**Links for the school Facebook page and Instagram**

[https://www.instagram.com/mcauleyhighofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/mcauleyhighofficial/)

[https://www.facebook.com/mcauleyhighofficial](https://www.facebook.com/mcauleyhighofficial)