FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Vision
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Focus for 2007
Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Commencement Mass
On Tuesday the College community celebrated the commencement of the school year with Mass at St Thomas’ Church, Terang. The Eucharist that we celebrated focused on our school’s Vision and Mission statement. This year we highlight the school as community and the heritage which enables us to remember the wonderful work done in the past years of the College and to look forward to a vibrant and strong future. This theme for 2007 is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Mother Ursula Frayne, Sister Anne Xavier Dillon and Sister Joseph Sherlock, the first Sisters of Mercy in Melbourne and also we celebrate the centenary of the Sisters of Mercy in Terang and St Thomas’ School, all part of our community.

At the conclusion of Mass the presentation of our leaders and the formal installation of our College and House Captains took place. Our Year 12 students were also presented with their Year 12 badges. The College community also took the opportunity of acknowledging and congratulating the Dux of Mercy Regional College for 2006 Megan Campbell.

I would like to thank Fr Barry Ryan and Fr Barry Stickland for celebrating the Mass for us and Mrs Margaret Leahy for her preparation and organisation of the Mass. My appreciation is also extended to Mrs Jo Saunders and Mr Michael Goss for ensuring the Eucharist was celebrated with music and song. Thank you also to the parents who provided morning tea. It was greatly appreciated.

Vision and Mission Statement
Last year the College undertook to review and renew our Vision and Mission statement. This statement will guide our decision making over the course of the next six years and the College’s strategic plan has developed from these very important statements.

A school’s Vision and Mission statement needs to be lived by all community members on a day to day basis, that being staff, students and parents. It is important that our Vision and Mission statement does not simply gather dust while sitting on a book shelf or on a coffee table.

The Vision and Mission statement was formerly commissioned and blessed at Mass on Tuesday by Fr Barry Ryan one of the College’s Canonical Administrators. I have included with the newsletter a copy of the Vision and Mission statement for each family. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to read the statement.

HSSSA Swimming
On Wednesday 21st February our students competed in the HSSSA Swimming Carnival with Mercy achieving second place overall.

Our girls were successful in gaining first place in the Girls Division and Johanna Glennen was the Under 17 Girls Age Champion.

Congratulations to Johanna and the entire Mercy Swimming Team – A great effort!
**Mercy 150th Anniversary**
This year the Mercy Sisters celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Mother Ursula Frayne, Sister Anne Xavier Dillon and Sister Joseph Sherlock, the first Sisters of Mercy in Melbourne. Given our proud history that is linked to the Mercy Sisters, we look forward to commemorating their contribution to education in Camperdown and Noorat during the year.

On Sunday 11th March to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Sisters of Mercy in Melbourne a celebration of the Eucharist will occur at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne at 2.30pm. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Frank Little and Bishop Peter Connors.

**Date Claimer**
Last year the first Annual Mercy Dinner was held where the College welcomed back and honoured past student Mr Paul Broderick. This year the second Annual Mercy Dinner will be held on Friday 25th May commencing at 7.00pm. Our guest this year will be Fr Ed Moloney, our first past student to be ordained as a Priest. It again promises to be a most enjoyable evening, so please make a note in your diaries and keep the date free.

**Loins Youth of the Year Competition**
Last week I had the pleasure of attending the local Lions Youth of the Year Competition held in Camperdown and Terang to witness our students represent the College and participate to a very high standard in this public speaking competition. Congratulations to the four students who participated, Emily Hickey, Roseleen Lenehan, Louise Place and Anna Whiting. Well done to Roseleen who was awarded the best speaker for the evening in Camperdown.

**School Musical**
On Monday this week our school musical for 2007 officially commenced with auditions taking place. The musical this year will be “The Leader of the Pack”. It was great to see many students auditioning for various parts, however we do require a few more senior students, particularly boys to get involved. In the past the school production has always been a most enjoyable and worthwhile activity, so I would encourage all students to give some thought to getting involved. If you are interested please see Mr Goss or Mrs Saunders.

**AIM**
Information regarding the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) has been included with this newsletter for Year 7 parents. The AIM is a state-wide assessment and reporting program in English and Mathematics for students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9. The AIM test will take place on the following dates:

Year 9: May 8th and 9th
Year 7: July 31st and August 1st

**Student Representative Council**
It is my please to announce the following students as members of the 2007 Student Representative Council. Congratulations to all elected students:

- **President** - Brodie Edge
- **Vice President** - Roseleen Lenehan
- **Secretary** - Sinead O'Connor
- **Treasurer** - Thomas Clissold
- **Chair** - Kate Rankin
- **Year 7A** - Kerry Geppert
- **Year 7B** - Laura McKenzie
- **Year 7N** - Madeline Moloney
- **Year 8A** - Jahd Anderson
- **Year 8B** - Emily Saunders
- **Year 8N** - Jac Domney
- **Year 9A** - Joe Glesson
- **Year 9B** - Daniel Hickey
- **Year 9N** - James Grinter
- **Year 9M** - Matthew Moloney
- **Year 10A** - Lachie Hose
- **Year 10B** - Caitlin Watson
- **Year 10C** - Jaqueline Heffernan

**Procedures for reporting absences to the College**
All absences need to be reported to the College on the day of absence by 9.00am. The College switchboard opens at 8.15am. Absences then need to be followed up with a note to the homeroom teacher the next day that students are at school. The College has a legal responsibility to be able to account for all students. Also students who arrive late to school need to have a note from parents explaining the reason for late arrival. Parents' co-operation in these matters will eliminate the need for the College to make phone calls later in the morning.

**Mortlake Bus**
Due to parent/teacher interviews being held at Mortlake College on Tuesday 20th March, buses will be departing Mortlake College at 1.00pm. Parents of students who travel on buses from Mortlake College are advised to make alternative arrangements on this day.
Coming Events

- Wednesday 7th March
- Friday 9th March
- Monday 12th March
- Wednesday 14th March
- Thursday 15th March
- Friday 16th March
- Sunday 18th March
- Monday 19th March
- Wednesday 21st March

Year 8 Camp
commence
concludes
classes
Practice
Carnival
Week commences
Practice
7.30pm – O’Keeffe Campus
Presentation Ball
Commences
Labour Day – no
classes
Presentation Ball
MRC Athletics
Catholic Education
Presentation Ball
PTFA Meeting
Presentation Ball

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Matthew Gstrein for raising $5000 for the refurbishment of the bike track.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Michael Harney for receiving an outstanding work experience report from his employer.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Anna Kemp for demonstrating leadership in her classes.

From the Science Coordinator

John Houlihan

Extreme Science Experience

Two Year 10 students have an opportunity to attend a day at the Dallas Brooks Centre in East Melbourne on Wednesday 18th April from 10am – 3.15pm where they will meet and discuss ideas with scientists and have some hands on sessions looking at current issues in science. Further information (including free registration, permission slips, travel reimbursement forms) can be downloaded from www.cluniesross.org.au (click on extreme science experience.) Any Year 10 students interested in attending the day will be required to speak to Mr Houlihan prior to registering for the event.

Siemens Science Experience

As stated in the previous newsletter MRC was fortunate to have been a number of Year 9 students attend the Siemens Science Experience throughout the later part of 2006 / early 2007. Below is an account from Hugh Sanders and Matthew Almond.

Hugh Saunders (10C)

In January, during the school holidays, I participated in the Siemens Science Experience. I spent three days at the University of Ballarat and participated in many scientific activities. Some of these were involved within certain fields of science including Microbiology, Forensics and Multimedia.

For example:
Microbiology saw us turn milk into yoghurt over the course of the three days, while a forensics expert came in to deliver a keynote speech. Multimedia was highly enjoyable, and in that session, we learned how to make up a podcast and transfer it to an iPod.

We also thoroughly enjoyed a trip to the Ballarat Wildlife Park, which featured a tour and a snake and crocodile show.

So, to wrap up, I would highly recommend the Siemens Science Experience to all Year 9 students to take part in, especially if you have great interest in a particular field of science, or if you just want to make some friends!
Matthew Almond (10A)

From the 5th to the 7th of December last year I participated in the Siemens science experience at Deakin University Warrnambool campus. The course was marine biology based so I was participating in activities that involved understanding our local marine life. Some of the activities were in the lab and others were out in the field.

The activity I found the most interesting was the estuary simulator. This was a machine made at Deakin University to help research estuaries around the local area. It is controlled by a program on the computer which when the right codes are typed in starts and stops the simulator. In this experiment we filled up one side of the estuary with fresh water and the other with salt water. We then put red dye in the fresh water and lowered the estuary wall; this then showed us the mixing of the two types of water. This was only one of the many activities that I participated in but overall it was a great week.

Get involved in Millipe de Mayhem

The Portuguese millipede has become a problem in Australia, but how much of a problem? We need your help to research these pesky invasive critters. The Portuguese millipede was accidentally introduced to south-eastern Australia (possibly arriving as a stowaway on a cargo ship). Ever since arriving in Australia, it has been crawling into people's homes and driving residents up the wall. In 1985, CSIRO Entomologist Dr Geoff Baker studied the spread of the Portuguese millipede and created a map showing where he thought they would spread in the future.

Now is the future, and it's time to find out if Dr Baker was correct.

You and your students can help scientists make a map of where millipedes live in Australia by collecting samples of millipedes and posting them to CSIRO in March and April as part of Millipede Mayhem, the Double Helix Science Club national experiment for 2007.

The project is open to everyone. Members of CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club who register for Millipede Mayhem will be sent a kit with everything you'll need to collect the samples properly. If you're not a Double Helix member you can make your own kit by following the instructions available online at http://www.csiro.au/helix - cheap, easy-to-access household equipment is all that's required.

By donating some of your time, you'll gain a better understanding of your local soil invertebrates and also help scientists better understand the impact that Portuguese millipedes are having on the ecosystem. So what are you waiting for? You can register as an individual or group.

For more information see www.csiro.au/helix and follow the links to Millipede Mayhem. Liz Yuncken (Project Officer) T: 02 6276 6397 CSIRO Education.
From the Maths Coordinator
Leanne Carpenter

Mathematics Challenge For Young Australians
The Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians is a problem solving tasks designed to Encourage and Foster.
- A greater interest in and awareness of the power of Mathematics.
- A desire to succeed in solving stimulating Mathematical Problems.
- A discovery of the joy of Problem Solving in Mathematics.
- The identification of talented young Australians.

Students who are high achievers in the area of Mathematics are encouraged to participate. The Challenge consists of 6 mathematics problems, which the students have 3 weeks to solve. It is important that participants are well organised, self motivated and willing to give up their own time to work on the challenge. There is a cost of $18.70 to be paid by the student. If you feel your child would benefit from participating in the challenge, please send me a note and I will organise for the necessary information to be sent out.

From the Sports Coordinator
Darren Cheeseman

Gym Equipment
Currently the PE faculty is in the process of trying to set up a basic gym for students to use. If anyone has any old gym equipment such as weights, benches, bars, dumbbells, etc that they would like to donate or lend to the College it would be appreciated. It may save you a trip to the rubbish tip.

Sporting Events Coming Up

Thursday 15th March - MRC Athletics Carnival @ Leura Oval, 9.30am
Thursday 22nd March - Catholic All Schools Swimming Carnival @ Baldwyn, Melbourne
Tuesday 27th March - HSSSA Athletics @ Leura Oval

Under 17 Champion

Well done to Johanna Glennen who was crowned the Female Under 17 Champion at the HSSSA Swimming Carnival recently.

Thanks

A big thank-you to Pat and Dawn Glennen for their donatation of some weights to go towards the gymnasium set up that the PE faculty are beginning to set up. It is greatly appreciated and when finished, it will be offered to students for use during lunchtimes and after school.

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MRC/ St. Pat’s Canteen Roster
Term 1 Week 7 & 8
Starting time 10.15am. Any enquiries to Rose ~ on 55932011 or A/H on 55932862. Thanks.

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<th>WEEK 7</th>
<th>MON 12 MAR</th>
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<td>TUES 13 MAR</td>
<td>SUSAN HINKLEY</td>
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<td>THURS 15 MAR</td>
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<td>LIZ O’BRIEN</td>
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<td>MICHELLE UNWIN</td>
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<td>ANDREA MOLONEY</td>
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From the Director of Learning and Teaching
Mrs. Lisa Pope

Career News

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA
On 17th April 2007, 3 - 6pm, Engineers Australia is holding a Careers Expo at the National Gallery Victoria, Entry is FREE - you must register online to attend. Further details are available at www.engcareereco.com.au or phone Diana Perkins, 9321 1726.

MONASH UNIVERSITY
Uni Student/Parent For a Day: 2 - 4 April and 2 - 4 October at the Gippsland Campus.
Experience Monash: 9 July at the Clayton and Caulfield Campuses.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
Access All Areas - A Passport To Your Future
Access All Areas is an event especially designed for secondary students and their families and offers a personalised, behind the scenes look at the University of Melbourne. The day-long program on 13 April offers an introduction to the University and its courses. To Access All Areas you must register online between 9th March - 6th April. For further information and to register please visit: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/about/meetstaff/vic/allareas/

FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE
Open Day - Sunday 25th March, 10am - 4pm
Werribee Campus, 250 Princes Highway Werribee. For more information: Phone 9731 2000 Email: vet.unimelb@custhelp.com

MASTER CLASS PROGRAM
Ever wondered what university is really like. From April this year, Melbourne Universities Master Class program offers Year 10 students the chance to participate in a series of lectures, workshops and practical classes especially designed to showcase the university experience. Applications close 14th March and are available online at: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/about/meetstaff/vic/masterclass

MEDENTRY
Students interested in pursuing medicine, and other health science careers need to sit the UMAT on 25th July. For more information: Phone: 9359 9960 or Email: info@MedEntry.com.au

RMIT FOLIO PREPARATION PROGRAM
The folio courses are beneficial to Year 11 and 12 students wishing to enhance their folios for entry into tertiary programs. For more information: Phone 9925 9161 or at nicholas.maggio@rmit.edu.au

THE AGE VCE AND CAREERS EXPO 2007
Caulfield Racecourse Station St Caulfield (Opposite Caulfield Station)
Friday April 20  12pm - 7pm
Saturday April 21  10am - 5pm
Sunday April 22  10am - 5pm
Find out more in the special feature appearing in The Age on Saturday 14th April 2007 or visit: education.the.age.com.au
$8.00 admission includes seminars and a copy of The Age – valid for three days

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
Talk & Tour
Friday 13 April, Thursday 12 July or Tues 25 Sept
For more information Phone 1300 135 045 or email: study@latrobe.edu.au

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Fax: 9523 0822.
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition

Core Values
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Inclusiveness
Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference.

Learning
Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.

Care
Through the Mercy tradition we commit ourselves to caring for each other.

Justice and Mercy
Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Excellence and Achievement
Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.
Community

Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

We will endeavour to:
- maintain links with the HCSN to facilitate continuity in Catholic education for young people in our parishes and districts
- celebrate opportunities to focus on our history through our feast day, liturgies and other school functions and occasions
- enhance our family, school and church links in order to nurture a community spirit based on faith
- be a welcoming and hospitable community

Inclusiveness

Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference

We will endeavour to:
- create a supportive learning environment which recognises and appreciates the uniqueness of each person
- maintain and be attentive to developing individual pathways for success

Learning

Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.

We will endeavour to:
- expose our students to a wide and rich range of experiences and resources
- create an environment in which life-long learning is sought and valued
- offer a broad, inclusive and relevant curriculum
- provide a curriculum that is challenging, flexible and open to change

Care

Through the Mercy tradition we commit ourselves to caring for each other.

We will endeavour to:
- provide each person with a safe and protective environment
- support each other
- listen to and share in the experiences of others

Justice and Mercy

Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

We will endeavour to:
- express our love for one another by appreciating the dignity of each person
- instil empathy and seek justice for the marginalised
- develop policies and procedures that are fair and compassionate to all
- further develop social justice awareness and action

Excellence and Achievement

Through the Mercy tradition we strive to support and acknowledge personal excellence and achievement.

We will endeavour to:
- challenge students to achieve personal excellence and reach their potential
- appreciate that students achieve at different levels
- acknowledge that each person's learning is different
Why have AIM tests?

AIM tests provide valuable information on your child’s learning. They show how your child is performing against standards and how this performance compares with other students in the same year level across the state.

Students are assessed at Year 3 to identify their achievement at the end of the early years of schooling and again at Year 5 to monitor their achievement before moving to secondary school. Students are assessed at Year 7, the beginning of their secondary school experience and at Year 9 before completing the compulsory years of schooling.

In addition to other assessments conducted in class, teachers can use the results of AIM tests to:

- monitor the progress of students in each class
- diagnose strengths and weaknesses of individual students
- adapt teaching programs to suit the particular needs of individual students.

AIM tests also provide information to help schools compare the results of their school and students with other schools and students across the state.

Information gained from AIM English and Mathematics tests will be used for reporting against national benchmarks. These benchmarks describe minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia in the areas of English and Mathematics. Students who do not achieve these standards are likely to have difficulty in making sufficient progress at school without additional assistance.

The VCAA provides curriculum and assessment for Prep to Year 12. It is a statutory body directly responsible to the Minister for Education and Training and serves government and non-government schools.

Published by

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Victoria 3002 Australia

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Facsimile +61 3 9651 4324

Email vcaa@educ.vic.edu.au
Website www.vcaa.vic.edu.au
giving you more information about your child’s progress at school

What is AIM?
The Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) is a statewide assessment and reporting program in English and Mathematics for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

What does the AIM Assessment Program cover?
The AIM Assessment Program is made up of tests in English (Reading, Writing and Spelling) and Mathematics. The tests are based on the Victorian Essential Learning Standards, the curriculum used in Victorian schools from Prep to Year 10.

The results of these tests tell you how your child is progressing and where your child could benefit from greater challenges or extra help.

How are tests conducted?
The tests are available as pencil and paper tests.

During the tests, students answer a number of questions, solve problems and write responses to show what they know and what they are able to do.

How do AIM tests fit with other assessments at my child’s school?
Teachers use a range of assessments over time to build a picture of your child’s strengths and needs. The AIM tests contribute valuable information to this picture and enable you to see your child’s achievements in a wider context.

Who assesses my child?
AIM tests are administered by teachers and are conducted at school. However, the tests are set and marked by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). This is the Authority that provides curriculum and assessment for Prep to Year 12 in government and non-government schools.

When will my child be assessed?
All AIM tests for Years 3, 5 and 7 take place in Term 3 each year. Year 9 tests are completed in Term 1.

How will my child’s results be reported to me?
Results from AIM tests are sent to schools for distribution to parents. The personal report tells you how your child is achieving in English and Mathematics compared to:
  • other Victorian students in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9
  • the average score on the AIM test
  • the standard expected of students at that year level when tested.

The reports for Years 3, 5 and 7 also contain national minimum standards or benchmarks. This diagram shows an example of the report for parents.

As no single test can give a complete picture of your child’s achievement, you are encouraged to discuss the results with your child’s teacher. All individual student results are treated confidentially by teachers and the school.

How are results reported to schools?
In addition to individual student reports, schools also receive extensive reports on each student group within the school. Schools can also make comparisons with similar schools across the state, which helps in planning and reviewing learning programs.

How can I find out more about the AIM Assessment Program?
Information for parents, including information in languages other than English, can be found on the VCAA website – visit www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/

Following the testing period, copies of the AIM pencil and paper tests for each year level will also be available on the website.

For more information and discussion about your child’s results, please contact the Principal of your school or your child’s teacher.