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.

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week Prayer

Spirit of God, with joy we celebrate your loving presence in our lives; with hope we know that your love will transform our world.

We believe that peace will come, justice can be realised, compassion will endure, forgiveness is possible.

We commit ourselves to following the example of Jesus Christ as we strive to bring your transforming Love to others.

We pray that we may be signs of Joy and Hope.

Catholic Education Week began on Friday 16th March with a Mass being celebrated by Bishop Peter Connors and the Priests of the Diocese at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Ballarat followed by a Catholic Education Dinner. Mercy Regional College was represented at the Mass and dinner by Fr Barry Ryan, Mrs Cherolyn Bullen (Board Member) and her husband, Trevor, Mr Kerin Glennen, Deputy Principal and myself. The Mass and Dinner was a wonderful celebration of Catholic Education.

At the dinner presentations were also made to staff members of the various schools throughout the Diocese who have served Catholic Education for 30 years. I was delighted that Mr Paul Glynn was one of those staff who were recognised for 30 years of outstanding and dedicated service to Catholic Education. Paul commenced his teaching career at St Bernard’s College in Essendon and then taught at CBC Warrnambool, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool and then at Mercy Regional College since 1997. I offer to Paul our congratulations on this outstanding achievement, and trust that we will benefit from Paul’s dedication for many years to come.

Catholic Education week provides a time for the Catholic Education community of the Ballarat Diocese to come together to celebrate education and recognise the contribution of teachers and students to the wider community. It is also a time to celebrate the excellence of Catholic education and the gifts of our teachers and students.

Our celebrations will also see all Year 7 students and the Year 5 & 6 students from St Colman’s, St Patrick’s and St Thomas’ come together on Thursday at the O’Keeffe Campus for the Hampden Catholic Schools Network Day.

Staffing Arrangements
Mrs Maria Russell will return from maternity leave at the beginning of term 2. Maria will resume the teaching of music and drama to our junior classes. We are delighted to welcome back Maria on a part-time basis.
MRC Athletics
Last Thursday, the College held its annual athletics carnival, with all students participating in the numerous track and field events. The eventual winners for the day were Markey House. The age champions were:

U/13  Female  Caitlin Hickey
Male  Brendan Richardson
U/14  Female  Matilda Anders
Male  James Devlin
U/15  Female  Lauren Carlin
Male  Jahd Anderson
U/16  Female  Candice Anderson
Male  Chris Baxter
U/17  Female  Nicole O’Sullivan
Male  Bernard McLeod
U/21  Female  Amy Unwin
Male  Stephen Staunton

Congratulations to all members of Markey House and the Age Champions

Reports and Parent/ Student/ Teacher Interviews
Semester 1 Mid Semester Reports will be posted home this week. These reports have been prepared by teachers to provide parents with information regarding students’ academic progress and work practices.

As always we welcome all parents and students to attend parent/student/teacher interviews to discuss in more detail the contents of the enclosed report. To provide a greater range of times for parents and students to attend these interviews the following times have been set aside for interviews this year:

- 4.00pm – 8.00pm Thursday 29th March
- 10.00am – 2.00pm Friday 30th March

All interviews will be held in the deChantal Stadium at the McAuley Campus. In order to allow interviews to be held during the day on Friday 30th March students will conclude term 1 on Thursday 29th March at 3.10pm.

Parent/student/teacher interview booking sheets have been included with reports.

All parents are more than welcomed to take the opportunity to meet with teachers. Where a teacher has requested an interview it is essential that this interview take place.

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.

School Musical
Last week two brief assemblies were held at both campuses to discuss with students our school musical for 2007. The musical this year will be “The Leader of the Pack”. After auditions last week for various parts, we do not have enough senior students, particularly boys to fill the entire cast. Therefore, I am asking for all students to give serious consideration to being part of the school musical and I would also ask for parents to help by encouraging their son or daughter to get involved. The school musical has always been an important part of life at Mercy and it would be most disappointing if the musical was not able to go ahead due to a lack of commitment on behalf of students. If you are interested please see Mr Goss or Mrs Saunders as soon as possible.

Professional Development
Mrs Margaret Leahy, Director of Religious Education will be attending the Mercy Ethos Programme in Dublin this year from 15th – 21st April. This is a wonderful opportunity and a very worthwhile programme that I am sure the College will benefit upon Margaret’s return. Mr Kerin Glennen, Deputy Principal attended the programme in 2005.

I have also been fortunate enough to be offered a place on the Leading Catholic Schools into the 21st Century Study Tour being conducted by the Ballarat Catholic Education Office.

This professional development programme is designed to engage leaders in dialogue and experiences to develop knowledge and understanding of education in a national and international perspective. The program began in November 2006 and concludes in May 2007. During the six months the participants will experience a range of activities designed to challenge their thinking of different perspectives in education.

The programme includes:
- Professional development program designed for individual participants
- Professional development opportunities with nationally and internationally recognised educational leaders
- A 20 day international study tour
- Tour leader, the Director of Catholic Education

The main focus will be leadership and governance with a particular emphasis on learning and teaching, school improvement and systems initiatives. The study tour will be from Friday 13th April until Tuesday 2nd of May. During my absence, Mr Kerin Glennen will be Acting Principal. The cost of the study tour is funded by the Catholic Education Office.
On Friday night, our College holds its annual Presentation Ball. From all accounts it is shaping up to be a wonderful night. The College is pleased to be able to offer our Year 11 students the opportunity to be presented to the community in such a way.

However after such occasions it appears that students perceive a need to attend other functions or parties in the form of after events. I must make it very clear that Mercy Regional College does not endorse any gatherings that may occur after the conclusion of the Presentation Ball.

I would ask that parents avail themselves of all the relevant information in relation to these functions and make sure that they are satisfied with the level of supervision and security, before allowing their son or daughter to attend.

I must repeat that the College does not endorse, nor see the need for, additional functions after the conclusion of the Presentation Ball.

Classes will conclude for the Easter break at 3.10pm on Thursday 29th March with classes resuming on Tuesday 17th April, 2006. Easter is a significant time in the Church’s liturgical calendar and I encourage all families to attend the Easter liturgies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. I have listed below the times of the Easter liturgies for the various parishes.

St Patrick’s Camperdown
[the times listed here are last years and may be subject to change]
Holy Thursday
Lismore 11.00am
Cobden 6.00pm
Camperdown 7.30pm

Good Friday
Cobden 12.00pm
Camperdown 3.00pm
Derrinallum 5.00pm

Holy Saturday
Cobden, 6.00pm
Camperdown 7.30pm

Easter Sunday
Lismore 9.00am
Camperdown 11.00am

St Thomas’ Terang & St Colman’s Mortlake
Holy Thursday
St. Thomas’ Terang 7.30 pm

Good Friday
St. Colman’s Mortlake 3 pm
St. Thomas’ Terang 3 pm

As Easter approaches, it is important that as Christians we take time to reflect upon the Easter season. Easter Sunday is both the third day of the Easter Triduum [Three Days of Easter, Good Friday, Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil] and the first day of the Easter Season. It is important to remember that the Easter Triduum is the heart of the Liturgical Year. The seven Sundays of Easter are also very important as they have precedence over all other solemnities and feasts. The fiftieth and last day of Easter is the feast of Pentecost. Throughout this time of rejoicing, Alleluias are sung and the Easter candle stands in a special place in the parish church. May we take the time over the Easter season to celebrate the news of the risen Lord.

Is your life like this?

One day everything seems just right—
all is going well...
you feel at peace with yourself
and more or less at one with all the world—
Do you sometimes have days like that?

Do you also know the opposite?
when nothing goes right...
when you are at odds with yourself
and at loggerheads with all the world—
do you have times when you think the
chaos will never end?

And do you know those grey days in between
when life is dull, monotonous,
when day just follows day after day...
Do you ever wonder what it’s all about?

Do you ever wonder, do you ever think...
maybe Jesus found his days to like this too?
...from the heights of Palm Sunday
to the depths of Good Friday
and into the blazing glory of Easter Day
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.

PTFA

The PTFA Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be held this week, but due to the absence of some executive members, it was decided to postpone the AGM until the next meeting on Monday 30th April. This postponement will also provide the opportunity for parents to make a commitment to come along to the AGM to support the small band of parents who have worked on your behalf to raise a significant amount of money for the College over many years. It was interesting to note from the PTFA accounts that were tabled at this weeks meeting that the PTFA had a turnover of close to $90,000 for the year. This result is quite amazing considering it was achieved by a small number of parents who have given of their own time.

Often when either the PTFA or myself make requests for parents to consider coming along to meetings we live in hope that parents will give some serious consideration to coming along. It is very disappointing when this fails to occur. The commitment is far from onerous and requires one hour of your time twice a term to support this important organisation within our school community. I trust that our request will not be ignored again and that parents will be able to support the PTFA.

Coming Events

Friday 23rd March
- Presentation Ball

Wednesday 27th March
- HSSSA Athletics

Thursday 29th March
- Term 1 concludes at 3.10pm
- Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 4pm – 8pm

Friday 30th March
- Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 10am-2pm

Monday 16th April
- Staff Day

Tuesday 17th April
- Students commence Term 2

Wednesday 25th April
- ANZAC Day

Monday 30th April
- PTFA AGM 7.30pm - McAuley Campus

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Sinead O’Connor and Courtney Guy for their assistance with the organisation of the Presentation Ball.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Xavier Gstrien for his achievement and success in cycling.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Rachael Harney & Brigid Kenna for their involvement in the Sisters of Mercy & St Thomas’ school centenary celebrations.
Princetown Camp
Tony Wynd - Year 7/8 Coordinator

The 22nd Princetown Camp took place 7-9 March and 70 students attended. Once again the Princetown Recreation Reserve became a hive of activity with students erecting tents and having all their meals at the Recreation Reserve. Meals were cooked on the BBQ, but no-one took the opportunity to catch a fish this year. A biathlon run by Mr Wall proved very popular and students competed in the boys, girls and mixed events on the beach.

The second day saw students take part in the walk to the rock pools. Once again this was ably led by Mr Rod Stone who instructed students what was in rock pools, and the sea creatures lived in them. Rod commended the students on their excellent ‘hunting’ skills and many starfish, crabs and sea slugs were found.

Students also listened to Rod's explanations on their habitat and how they survived. Darcy Hinkley celebrated his birthday and enjoyed everyone singing happy birthday.

On the last day students packed up their gear and headed to Gibson Steps and Loch Ard Gorge, lunching at Port Campbell and then headed back to Camperdown and Noorat.

I would like to thank the students for their high level of co-operation overall and also a big thankyou to staff for generously giving up their time to make this camp possible.

Young Leaders at O’Keeffe
Fiona Sargeant / Sharyn Thulborn - Coordinators

At the O’Keeffe Campus the Year 9’s are taking on leadership roles. There are four groups;
- Community
- Mentor
- Sports & Recreation
- Maintenance

As the Community Group, we are looking to get more involved in the local community.

At the O’Keeffe Campus this year we have received some outdoor furniture, thanks to Danny Gordon and last year’s Certificate 1 Class for building the furniture.

Also at the end of last year the O’Keeffe Campus students put together and raised $50 to donate to the Scroggie family.

Report by: Lauren Carlin, Amy Smart, Grace Heffernan, Matthew Moloney, Lucia McSween, Samantha Meade and Thomas Arundell.

MRC/ St. Pat’s Canteen Roster
Term 1 Week 9
Starting time 10.15am. Any enquiries to Rose ~ on 55932011 or A/H on 55932862. Thanks.

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<td>MON 26 MAR</td>
<td>DEB CHESLETT</td>
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<td>TUES 27 MAR</td>
<td>JEANETTE O’CONNOR</td>
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<td>WED 28 MAR</td>
<td>DIANNE GLENNEN</td>
<td>55925314</td>
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<td>THURS 29 MAR</td>
<td>ANNIE WATSON</td>
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From the Sports Coordinator
Darren Cheeseman – Sports Coordinator

Mercy Regional College Athletic Sports

Last Thursday the 15th March saw the annual MRC Athletics Sports held at the Leura Oval. Although conditions were warm and windy students performed extremely well with many records being broken on the day. Markey house continued their dominance of the last couple of years with a resounding victory.

Well done to all students that participated on the day and for students that performed well there will be an opportunity to participate again in the HSSSA Athletics Carnival next Tuesday 27th March.

Overall Results
Markey; 2,069
Ryan; 1,518
Frayne 1,511
Tindley 1,336

Age Group Champions
U’13 Female: Caitlin Hickey
U’13 Male: Brendan Richardson

U’14 Female: Matilda Anders
U’14 Male: James Devlin

U’15 Female: Lauren Carlin
U’15 Male: Jahd Anderson

U’16 Female: Candice Anderson
U’16 Male: Chris Baxter

U’17 Female: Nicole O’Sullivan
U’17 Male: Bernard McLeod

U’21 Female: Amy Unwin
U’21 Male : Stephen Staunton

The photos included in this report are from the Mercy Regional College Athletic Sports.
Wimmera Field Day Report
Tony Wynd – Ag Teacher

It was an early start for the Agriculture class when they left at 6am for the Wimmera Field Days at Longrenong. The purpose of the trip was to study the different methods of farming used for grain production. Students had set questions that they had to answer that looked at conservation tillage methods, types of machinery, different fertilizer uses and also GPS systems and auto steer systems for tractors and headers. Most of the students were very impressed with the size of tractors, headers and spray units on display. The WorkSafe site was also visited and students had to look at safety procedures for the grain industry. I would like to thank Danny Gordon for driving us on the day.

From the Student Representative Council
John Houlihan (SRC Coordinator)

As SRC Coordinator I would like to extend my congratulations to all students who were elected to the Mercy Regional College SRC for 2007. In particular it is pleasing to note that the SRC will be lead by a strong Year 11-leadership team consisting of Roseleen Lenehan (President), Sinead O’Connor (Secretary), Thomas Clissold (Treasurer) and Kate Rankin (Chairperson).

Some of the aims of the SRC for 2007 will include:
- To promote school spirit
- To represent the views of the student body and give voice to their recommendations.
- To initiate, organise, develop and encourage a range of student activities, which help make the school a more rewarding, pleasant environment in which to pursue an education.
- To improve student-teacher relationships
- To lead the student body
- To raise funds to support student activities and charity groups.

The SRC will make a valuable contribution to the way MRC functions as a community throughout the year and I wish each member all the best in their endeavors to represent the student body.

From the Business Manager
Martin Ellul

It is now possible for parents to pay their school fees via Internet Banking. The bank account details are as follows.

National Australia Bank
BSB Number 083 523
Account Number 5288 99931

When making a deposit parents must identify themselves by name and their school fee account number.
From the Director of Learning and Teaching  
Mrs. Lisa Pope

Career News

NMIT
If you are interested in a career in the horse industry then NMIT is holding a Field Day at its Epping campus and at Northern Lodge Stud, on Wednesday, 18th April from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Applications close on 30th March. For more information please phone Lois Carlton on (03) 39269 1203

AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE - WARRNAMBOOL
Open Day 29th March 2007, 9.30am – 4.00pm at Warrnambool Campus, Brauer College Warrnambool. For more information please contact Jane Gapes on 5550 3840.

STUDENTS ON WORK PLACEMENT, VET & ASBA
If you are absent from work for the day or change your day out, you must advise your employer and the MRC office

TERTIARY INFORMATION SESSION
Next Thursday 29th of March between 10.00 am and 11.30 am Year 12 students will be attending a Tertiary Information Session at Camperdown College - if any parents would like to attend the session they are most welcome to meet us there.

WESTVIC WORK FORCE

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS

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AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS

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For more information on any of these vacancies please contact David Gladman at Westvic Work Force on 5561 9000.

Heated Indoor Pool – KOLORA  
Keith & Sally McConnell  
Phone: 55927220  
mail: spindle@westvic.com.au

Term 2 Classes (11 weeks)
LIMITED VACANCIES

**Stroke Development:** (1 hour class) for children who can swim freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke but who wish to improve their stroke. Mon, Tues & Wed classes

**Laps 4 Kids:** (1 hour class) is a continuation of the above program with less stroke development and more endurance swimming Must be competent in all strokes. Mon, Tues & Wed classes

**Lap Swimming for Teenagers/Adults**
1 hour sessions for lap swimming - limited morning & evening sessions available

For bookings or enquiries phone Sally on 55927220.

REFRESH YOUR MARRIAGE
Marriage Encounter is a worldwide marriage enrichment programme that has been in Australia for over 30 years. The weekend is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and focus on your relationship in a very positive way. Enhance your marriage by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Your marriage deserves that kind of attention. The next weekend will be held at Myrning on May 4-6. For further information and bookings contact Peter & Erika Smith 9899 0824 or E-mail. erika@hrpartner.com.au. Checkout the website for more information on www.wwme.org.au

Notices

The Corangamite Shire will be holding activities for secondary students during the school holidays. This includes a trip to the Adventure Park in Geelong and Go Ride a Wave Surf School in Anglesea. If anyone is interested they can pick up a permission form from the school office.

Camperdown Theatre Royal will present the following movies;
- **Dreamgirls** Rated M - Friday 23rd March at 7.30pm
- **The Queen** Rated M - Thursday 5th April at 1.30pm
- Cancer Council Fundraiser - $12
- **Flushed Away** Rated G - Friday 13th April at 1.30pm
- **Miss Potter** Rated G - Friday 20th April at 7.30pm
  - School Holiday Matinee
  - Adult Ed Fundraiser - $12 including supper