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 Goals
Community

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

State Government Funding
In the last two editions of the newsletter I have expressed to you disappointment in the State Government at not including any new funding for Catholic Schools in the last budget. Some parents have asked that a pro-forma letter be written so that they can support a campaign for increased funding. If you are interested in such a letter, one can be found on the College website - www.mercy.vic.edu.au or also attached to this newsletter.

Please write to:

- Our local members -
  Mr Terry Mulder MLA
  Member for Polwarth
  115 Bromfield Street,
  Colac 3250
  Ph 03 5231 5046

- Mr John Vogels MLC
  124A Koroit Street South
  Warrnambool 3280
  Ph 03 5562 9155

- The Minister for Education -
  Mrs Bronwyn Pike
  Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
  East Melbourne 3002

Please support us in this campaign.

Charter for the Australian Teaching Profession

A statement of values and commitments

Teachers believe in the power of education to make a difference to the lives of individuals and to society. As teachers and principals we are committed to giving students the best education possible for them to lead fulfilling, purposeful and productive lives. We bring to the role high levels of professional knowledge, expertise and ethical commitment.

TEACHING

Teachers set high standards for every student and respond to individual needs. We challenge students to be all that they can be, to set demanding goals for themselves and to make a contribution to others.
We provide a stimulating learning environment. We create schools that welcome students and foster the development of values, so that all students, whatever their personal circumstances, can participate and thrive. We provide experiences that engage each student's capacity to learn.

We inspire students to discover the joy of learning, drawing them into a world of knowledge, ideas and creativity. Our ambition for all is a lifelong engagement with learning.

THE PROFESSION
Our practice reflects the essential balance between conserving and renewing what is, and anticipating and building what can be. We work in partnership with colleagues, families, other professional and the wider community.

We take responsibility for the development and renewal of our profession. We act to advance the quality and reputation of teaching through professional learning and reflection.

We are specialists in teaching and learning. We have expertise in student development, including how young people gain knowledge, learn to think critically and develop creativity.

The teaching profession sets itself demanding standards. We act with judgement, integrity and respect to build the trust and confidence necessary for successful learning.

Student Achievement
Last week our senior shooting team was victorious in the Catholic Secondary Schools of the Ballarat Diocese shooting competition held in Swan Hill. Congratulations to the following members of the Senior Shooting Team:

- Tom Collins
- Nick Stephenson
- Shaun Mahony
- Michael Weston
- Ryan O’Connor

Two other students are about to embark on an opportunity of a life time. Jahd Anderson and Tilly Anders have been selected as a part of a 42 strong Australian athletics team to tour American and Canada. They will arrive in Vancouver on June 26th for a three week stay. The Tour will include top-level coaching and training and competition against elite Canadian and American athletes in the 100 metre, 200 metre sprints and triple jump. During their time away Jahd and Tilly will have some down time which will allow them to visit famous attractions such as Whistlers Mountain, Universal Studios and California's Disneyland.

We wish Jahd and Tilly all the best for their trip away and we certainly look forward to hearing all about it on their return.

Congratulations
Congratulations are extended to James Castles and Chelsea Snibson on the safe arrival of their baby daughter Tannah Grace this week. We wish James and Chelsea all the very best.

Car Raffle
There will be a Car Raffle committee meeting on Monday 23rd June 7.30pm in the College Board room at the McAuley Campus. Any parents who are interested in being part of this committee are more than welcome to attend this meeting. Some new faces on the committee would be greatly appreciated.

End of Term 2
Term 2 will conclude on Wednesday 25th June at 3.10pm. Term 3 will commence for students on Tuesday 15th July, 2008.

The early conclusion to term 2 allows the staff of Mercy Regional College to gather for a two day staff retreat. This retreat is being facilitated by Fr Chris Gleeson SJ. This time away will provide our staff with a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon our role as Catholic educators working within Catholic Education. It will also be a welcome opportunity to spend some time on the religious dimension of our school.

At the beginning of term 3, I will be taking the opportunity of having two weeks long service leave. During this time Mr Kerin Glennen will be Acting Principal.

Semester Reports will be posted home to parents on Friday 27th June. I wish all families a very safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to commencing term 3 in a couple of weeks. Enjoy the break after a long term!

Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter for your interest on page 4, a reflection titled “Along the Track” written by Jim Quillinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. Jim's reflection this week is titled “Love Actually”. I hope you enjoy this reading.

Prayer
Lord,
We give thanks for all the people who work and learn in Catholic schools. We pray especially for those men and women who worked so tirelessly and established our school system. May we continue to learn about the Gospel values they upheld and practice them in our own lives.
Amen

Andrew Watson
Principal
Coming Events

Week 11
Monday 16th June
- Year 11 Exams

Tuesday 17th June
- Year 11 Exams
  - Instrumental Music Evening

Wednesday 18th June
- Year 11 Exams
- Instrumental Music Evening

Week 12
Wednesday 25th June
- Term 2 concludes at 3.10pm

Thursday 26th June
- Staff Retreat

Friday 27th June
- Staff Retreat
- 2009 Year 7 enrolments close
- Semester 1 reports posted home

TERM 3

Week 1
Monday 14th July
- Staff Professional Development Day

Tuesday 15th July
- Students commence Term 3

Week 2
Tuesday 22nd July
- Parenting Teenagers 7.30pm
  St. Thomas’ Community Centre Terang

Thursday 24th July
- Australian National Chemistry Quiz

Week 3
Tuesday 29th July
- Board Meeting
- ICAS Mathematics Competition
- Catholic All Schools Netball

Wednesday 30th July
- MRC Oratory Competition

Thursday 31st July
- Mathematics Competition

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Nick Stephenson for his performance at the CAS Shooting Competition.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Jack McKenzie for going out of his way to help a fellow student during the Year 9 Camp.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Jason Lee for his efforts to be inclusive of all students at the Year 7 Retreat.

ATTENTION PARENTS
RE: CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP 2008

Please note we have approximately 7 places available for the Central Australia Trip which will take place from Monday 22nd September to Wednesday 1st October 2008.

If parents are interested in their child participating in this trip you can phone our office on 5593 2011 and leave the name of your child with one of our Receptionists. Because of the limited positions available it will be a case of “first in best dressed”.

Information about the cost and itinerary can then be forwarded to you, once we have filled the list.

Please note we will only accept parental permission via a phone call, not students coming to the office to nominate themselves.
Along the track

Love Actually

Do you write ‘To Do’ lists or employ other strategies as reminders of tasks to be accomplished or important things to be remembered? All of us need reminders of one form or another at various stages. Traditionally, the Church dedicates the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – it is like a piece of string on our fingers, a reminder.

Throughout the month of June, we are asked to spend some time reflecting on the love of God, shown to us so vividly in the life of Jesus. June is also set aside to remind us of the need to reflect on our own lives and our response to Jesus’ call to love one another as I have loved you for Christian love is essentially something to be shared. It is best seen and experienced in action. God’s love is seen uniquely in each person’s life – through our lives the love of God takes shape in our little corner of the world.

The first letter of John is a great hymn to God’s passionate and faithful love for us. St John says:

My dear friends, let us love one another, for love is from God... Love consists of this; it is not we who loved God but God loved us first and sent his son... If God loved us so much, we should love one another. No one has ever seen God but as long as we love one another God remains in us and God’s love comes to its perfection in us.

Let us love then, because God loved us first.

Anyone who says ‘I love God’ and hates his brother, is a liar. Since whoever does not love his brother whom he can see cannot love God who cannot be seen (1 John 4).

There is a lot in that short passage. We sometimes find it hard to believe that God loves us first – we often think that we have to earn it first, to please God then God will love us. No, God loves us first... and unconditionally. Again, that’s sometimes hard for us to understand because as humans we often put conditions on love – I will be your friend if you do things my way, if you agree with me and so on. That’s not how God loves us. That’s not the example of Jesus. Even in His encounter with the rich young man who turned away, Jesus still loved him ( Mk 10:21-27). There were times when Jesus said to go and sin no more, not as a condition of love but rather because the person was engaging in self-destructive activity.

Throughout this month especially, we are called to remind ourselves that we are instruments of God’s love, instruments of God’s peace and harmony. But any instrument needs care and attention, it cannot be an instrument by myself – I need to be aware of God’s love and goodness in my own life. Just as a flute needs someone’s breath to make music, so I need to be aware of God’s constant and faithful love for me. That is the ‘as I have loved you’ part.

The month of June is also about helping us to discover the sacred – the reality of the loving presence of God in my own life, the sacred call for me to be an instrument of that love in my world and to let God’s presence influence my life. It is a time to recall where God’s understanding and compassion has been present in my life and where God’s challenge to love has been expressed. It is a time to discover how God’s love touches other people’s lives because of me.

Sometimes we doubt our ability to be instruments of God’s love – but there are times when we can experience this very clearly. When:

- Someone thanks us for something we have done that helped them significantly, even though we did not realise we had done anything out of the ordinary
- We sense a deep harmony and oneness within for no particular reason
- When we feel a strength that we know is not ours alone
- We experience a bonding with the people with whom we live or work
- We come to discover or claim a gift or an ability of ours because of its effect on others’ lives. (Joyce Rupp: May I have this Dance p133)

Why not write a “To Do” list for June. The first To Do: spend of few moments each day thinking about where God’s love is evident in your own life. Don’t overlook the small things – the joy of the company of others, the feeling of a sense of purpose in life and so on.

The second To Do: where have I been challenged to grow this week or today – who challenged me or what situation was the catalyst for growth?

To Do number three: what sort of image of God did I present today or this week? What kind of music is God playing in your life now – what song title might sum that up?

Glory be to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. (Eph 3:21). Amen.

Regards
Jim Quilligan
Dear Parents and Friends,

The Social Justice Committee has been working consistently over the past weeks to educate ourselves about the issue of human trafficking. We worked with Caitlin Leahy from Mary Ward International who provided us with relevant information about the issue and we viewed the film 'The Jammed' about the sex slave industry in Melbourne. Next term, Mrs. Helen Kenna will be working in East Timor (Timor Leste). We aim to sell a range of Fair Trade products over the last two weeks of term to serve a two-fold purpose through this action. The people of East Timor are in desperate need of many, many goods and services so we will raise money to send with Mrs. Kenna. At the same time we hope to raise awareness of the awful problem of human trafficking throughout the world but especially in Australia. By supporting Fair Trade organizations which we have investigated and decided are authentic, we will be ensuring that money for their labour goes to those who produce the goods we buy.

In Summary:

- People who work in their own communities for fair wages do not have the need to sell their children into slavery.
- Young girls are able to stay in their villages and work on projects which will bring the profits back to them.
- At present, 80% of trafficked people are women and children.
- An estimated 1000 women are trafficked to Australia for prostitution each year.
- You can help us to send a donation to East Timor with Mrs. Kenna
- You can purchase Fair Trade goods from the College using the order form attached.

In this week's Gospel we hear Jesus’ words of compassion and his pain at the suffering of his people. As we try to help the people of East Timor and the women and children who are being sold into slavery, we too join in the pain Jesus felt as his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned.

Human trafficking may take on a number of forms, including trafficking:

- into the sex industry
- into situations of forced labour (for example in factories, restaurants or on fishing boats)
- into domestic labour (for example as a servant or nanny)
- for marriage
- for bodily organs

Human Trafficking is a contemporary form of slavery, with victims typically tricked or coerced into labour or sexual exploitation.

‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that has.”       Margaret Mead.

Consumers have the power to choose products which don’t support trafficking. The products we have for sale are all of good quality. The chocolate is especially delicious! The prices have been increased by us as a means of making a good profit for East Timor. Please consider supporting us in this work and enjoy tea, coffee and chocolate in the process.

For more information please contact Margaret Leahy at Mercy Regional College. 5593 2011. Simply fill out the form below and send to the College office, in an envelope, with the correct money, or call into the college and purchase your goods. Goods will be available for pick up at the College office or will be sent home with students next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
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<th>PRICE</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Blend 250g Leaf Tea</td>
<td>$6.30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Grey 50 Tea Bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Grey 125g Leaf Tea</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Expresso 250g Ground Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lemongrass 25 Tea Bags</td>
<td>$4.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gentle Ginger 25 Tea Bags</td>
<td>$4.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peppermint 25 Tea Bags</td>
<td>$4.80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small ball on a chain tea infuser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large ball on a chain (for pots)</td>
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<td>Tea strainer</td>
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Facts and not Myths regarding alcohol

In life there are a number of myths that have no real basis and often the facts are lost. Several of these myths surround the consumption of alcohol and are not grounded in the truth whatsoever.

Fact or myth?

“It is cool to drink”
“People will think I’m a loser if I don’t have a drink.”
“It’s all part of growing up!”
Answer: Myth
You do not have to drink to be cool or to be an adult. In fact, it is safer if you don’t.

Young people who establish heavy and excessive drinking patterns in adolescence are more likely to continue drinking at these levels as adults. This increases the risk of suffering from long term health consequences such as cirrhosis, cancer and other harms.

(see www.drufinfo.adf.org.au for more information)

Fact or myth?

“Everyone drinks on special a occasion.”
“I have a drink to celebrate.”
“You can’t have a good time without alcohol.”
Answer Myth
In fact, many Australians don’t drink, or rarely drink, alcohol.
In 2006 approximately 20% of Australians didn’t drink alcohol and another 33.5% had an alcoholic drink on a less than weekly basis. Many people choose to celebrate significant events with healthy food and drinks. A multitude of non alcoholic options are available, including fruit juices, soft drinks or tea. Many fruit based “mocktails” can be a fun way to explore non-alcoholic drinking.

Fact or myth?

“You’re the only parents who won’t let me drink!”
“I’m the only teenager who isn’t allowed to have a drink.”
“Everyone drinks!”
Answer: Myth
Not all teenagers drink alcohol.
In 2005, a survey of Australian secondary students found that 52% of all students aged 12-17 were non drinkers, while 23% were occasional drinkers and 19% said they were party drinkers. While experimenting with alcohol is often considered as “normal” during adolescence, this doesn’t mean it is safe, nor does it mean that parents have to accept teenage drinking. Research has conclusively shown that alcohol consumption during adolescence years is harmful in relation to brain development. Alcohol is a drug and as such should be treated as such.

REMINDER

MRC PARENTS & FRIENDS
CADBURY CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

The date to return all money from the sale of chocolates (in the envelope provided) or unsold chocolates has been extended to -

Friday 20th June
MUST BE IN BEFORE END OF TERM 2

REMEMBER

For every family who sells all the 48 chocolate bars in their box, your name will go into a draw to win a $200 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card.
From the Director of Learning and Teaching  
Mrs. Lisa Pope

CAREERS REPORT

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

University Experience  
Ballarat Campus  Monday, 30th June 2008  
Melbourne Campus  Monday, 7th July & Tuesday 8th July 2008

University Experience is for any Year 12 student considering study at university next year. This exciting event will give you a taste for university life by getting you involved in different interactive sessions based around university courses offered at ACY National. For more information and to register for this exciting event please visit: www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience

Early Achievers’ Program

Early entry is offered into all of the undergraduate courses on each of ACU’s six campuses. To be eligible for the Early Achievers’ Program you must meet a few simple criteria:

- Be currently enrolled in Year 12
- Have completed three semesters of study in years 11 & 12 with consistent and successful results
- Demonstrate involvement in your community, eg. Contributions to school, church, local community, sporting or cultural organisation.
- Select an ACU course as your first preference when applying for admission through VTAC
- Have undertaken the relevant pre-requisite subjects for your chosen degree
- Ask your school Principal to complete the Principal's Recommendation form.

Application forms will be available online from Tuesday, 1st July and close on 30th September. For more information and to apply, visit: www.acu.edu.au/earlyentry. Call 1300 ASK ACU (1300 275 228) Remember you must also apply for admission to ACU through VTAC.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne will be hosting the second and final session for 2008 of the popular Access All Areas program on Friday 11th July. Access All Areas offers students in Years 10 – 12 and their parents, the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes look at University life which matches their own interests and needs. Registrations are essential. Register at www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu. For further information: Phone 1800 801 662

ELDERS – Careers Day & Junior Auctioneer Workshop – Monday 30th June

The careers day / workshop will be held in the school holidays from 10.00am – 3.00pm at 100 Portland Road, Hamilton. Elders encourage students who are thinking about a career in marketing, livestock, banking, agronomy, wool, real estate or insurance, to attend. Student numbers will be limited and entry forms must be received at Elders before 16th June. Entry is free. For more information and an entry form please contact Ann Hiscock, Elders Hamilton 5572 2266.

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Nursing Course Information Seminar 18th July 2008 at 7.30pm at the Warrnambool Campus

The seminar will provide an overview of the Nursing programs. Topics to be covered include:

- Overview of undergraduate Nursing courses
- Single Degree - Bachelor of Nursing
- Combined Degrees
  - Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)
  - Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Commerce
  - Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery
- Entry Requirements
- Advanced Standing for Division 2 Nurses
- Career Opportunities

Nursing Information evenings are also available at Geelong on Thursday, 10th July and Melbourne on Wednesday, 30th July. For more information: www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/nursing or hmnbs-support@deakin.edu.au

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY – OPEN DAYS

Geelong Waterfront Campus – Sunday, 10th August 10.00am – 3.00pm
Warrnambool – Sunday, 17th August 10.00am – 2.00pm
Melbourne Campus Burwood – Sunday, 24th August 10.00am – 4.00pm
A Taste of William Angliss Institute on the 28th & 29th August is an opportunity for secondary students to spend a whole day experiencing the finer points of the Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts at the college. For more information: www.angliss.vic.edu.au or contact Jane Searle on 9606 2389.

WILLIAM ANGLISS INSTITUTE - OPEN DAY 10TH AUGUST

GEELONG CAREER EXPO 2008 - TUESDAY, 15TH JULY 2008 - 6.30 - 9.00pm
The expo will be held at the Deakin University Waterfront Campus, Gheringhap Street Geelong and admission is free. For more information contact Louise Lee on 5228 6307

JULIUS EVENTS COLLEGE

MERCY CAREERS WEBSITE
The Mercy Website now has a careers link on its front page. If you go to the Mercy website under student information there is now a link to Careers Information. This area will have a two monthly calendar of upcoming events. It includes links to other Career Websites/Universities/TAFES etc. It is worth a look!

DOXA CADETSHIP PROGRAM
The Doxa Cadetship program provides opportunities for disadvantaged young people by investing in education related programs that help them achieve their full potential. Doxa works with schools to seek applications from students to the Cadetship Program. In addition to having a disadvantage, cadets must also have displayed leadership abilities and talents during their secondary education. (Disadvantaged can mean living in the country, slower internet connection etc). Three ex students from Mercy Regional College have already been awarded this scholarship.

A Doxa cadet receives:
- Financial support - $6,000 per year
- Assistance with purchasing university textbooks and materials
- Quality work experience with their sponsor company
- Personal and professional development program

To be eligible for a Doxa Cadetship, applicants must:
- Be a current Year 12 student who will commence university studies in the following year
- Hold Australian citizenship
- Be socially and financially disadvantaged and need support to undertake University studies.

Degree Programs most suited to a cadetship are: Bachelor of Commerce/Information Systems; Business (Tourism Management; Arts (Major in Criminology); Engineering/Commerce; Commerce/Arts; Business/Arts; Accounting/Banking & Finance; Information Technology, Commerce/Law, Communication (Journalism); Business (HRM & Marketing); Business and Commerce; Commerce; Engineering (Civil) / Management; Engineering (Civil); Architectural Studies; Economics & Finance.

More information will be provided in September

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ENTRY PREPARATION PROGRAM
Places are still available for students in the 2 day AMEPP Professional Preparation course for UMAT in 2008. Course 6 - 21st & 22nd June, Course 10 - 12th & 13th July, Course 14 - 26th & 27th July. For more information phone Michael Cobucci on 1410 691 934. Year 12 students will need a UMAT score to apply for 2009 undergraduate admission for most medicine courses in Australia. This includes Dental Science, Physiotherapy, Oral Health (Therapy or Hygiene) and Optometry at the University of Melbourne and Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmacy/Commerce, and Physiotherapy at Monash University.

For further information on Careers, applications forms etc please see Mrs Lisa Pope.
## Assessment Planner 2008 - Semester 1

### Term 2

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Science Report</td>
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<td>12 w/e 27/6</td>
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<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>SAC 2 Test</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 w/e 20/6</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>VCAA Unit 3 Exam [Wed 11/6 2:45pm – 4:30pm]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 w/e 20/6</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Completion of Outcome 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 w/e 20/6</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Using Language to Persuade SAC Analysis of Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 w/e 27/6</td>
<td>Outdoor Ed</td>
<td>End of Unit Review QNS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: w/e [Week Ending]. Please note that changes may occur and students will be notified by subject teacher of any changes.

### NOTICES

**Enrolments**
- **For Year 7 2009**
  - Close on Friday 27th June, 2008
  - All enrolment forms must be in by this date.

**Lost - 1 Red Coat left in the bus shelter**

The Corangamite Shire Secondary School Holiday Program will be conducting 2 trips during the school holidays.
- **1. Luna Park, Melbourne**
- **2. Mini Golf / Shopping in Ballarat**

If you are interested in either of these a permission form can be obtained from the College office.
The planning profession is experiencing a revival due to growing interest in the environment, managing population growth, climate change, community engagement and the way we design and view the built form.

This has provided an opportunity to refocus on planning careers and address the continued shortage of planners particularly in the local government sector.

Planners are in a unique position to shape the world we live in and improve the quality of life for future generations. Planners create and design spaces and places for the benefit of the community to ensure economic growth, sustainability, social equity and community living. Planning is a diverse career which offers the opportunity to work in statutory and strategic planning, coastal planning, environmental planning, sustainable development, health, social and transport planning.

There are great options for career advancement, attractive salary packages and overseas travel.

Please direct people with an interest in planning to the Planning Careers stand on JUNE 20 - 22 at the HERALD SUN MELBOURNE CAREERS EXPO MELBOURNE EXHIBITION CENTRE CLARENDON ST, SOUTHBank
Date:

Mr Terry Mulder MLA
Member for Polwarth
115 Bromfield Street,
Colac   3250

Dear Mr Mulder,

Re: State Budget 2008/09 and Catholic Schools

I write to express my concern about the impact of the announcements in the recent State Budget on Catholic schools in Victoria. The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) put in a detailed proposal for additional funding but the budget outcome was extremely disappointing as there is no new funding for Catholic schools in the 2008/09 State Budget, even though the total new expenditure announced for Government schools amounted to $1.3 billion.

The Catholic Education Sector has been ignored in this Budget

As you would be aware the CECV has been calling for additional funding over a number of years but these requests have been ignored by the State Government who continually claims that education is their number one priority. Legislation specifies that the Minister for Education is responsible for the educational needs of all students, regardless of sector. The need for extra funding for Catholic schools has never been more urgent.

State Government funding in Victoria continues to languish at the bottom of the table compared with all other states. Catholic schools in Victoria receive about $578 less per child each year than children being educated in Catholic schools in New South Wales. This means that Victorian Catholic schools receive $104 million less than their New South Wales counterparts. As a sector, we believe that the Victorian Government should contribute at least 25% of the Australian Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) to Catholic Schools and that this should be incorporated into State legislation.

Catholic schools had hoped that the 2008/09 budget would provide additional recurrent funds to assist our schools in matching the recent wage increases agreed to by the Government for State school teachers. While few would argue against a wage rise for teachers, this decision will place more strain on Catholic education, as the CECV is committed to wage parity with government teachers. Without a real increase in State recurrent funding, schools will be forced to make two difficult choices: reduce resources or increase school fees. The CECV may also be forced to review some recently implemented school projects such as initiatives in the areas of student wellbeing, students with disabilities, new arrivals, refugees, Indigenous students and support of low income families.

I am sure you would agree that this is an issue of the utmost importance as we are talking about the future of children. The Catholic education community has the right, as taxpayers, to ask the Victorian Government to further assist in providing a quality education to achieve the best educational outcomes for all children. Increased funding will greatly assist teachers to give children the best opportunities in life.

Mr Mulder, I write to ask you to press the State Government to increase funding to Catholic Schools to 25% of the AGSRC as a matter of urgency and request that this be legislated as the minimum funding to the sector.

Yours sincerely,

Parent of a Catholic School Student
Dear Mr Vogels,

**Re: State Budget 2008/09 and Catholic Schools**

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I am sure you would agree Minister that this is an issue of the utmost importance as we are talking about the future of children. The Catholic education community has the right, as taxpayers, to ask the Victorian Government to further assist in providing a quality education to achieve the best educational outcomes for all children. Increased funding will greatly assist teachers to give children the best opportunities in life.

I reiterate that I write to ask that the State Government increase funding to Catholic Schools to 25% of the AGSRC as a matter of urgency and that this be legislated as the minimum funding to the sector.

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