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 2013
Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Today is a significant day in the recent history of the Catholic Church with the impending resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. I doubt there were many Catholics across the world or in our local parishes who were not shocked at this announcement a few weeks ago and for the first time in 600+ years, we look to the election of a new pontiff with his predecessor still with us.

Notwithstanding the historical significance of the resignation, I believe that Benedict's decision also says something powerful about the role of prayer and reflection in authentic Christian leadership. In the speech announcing his decision, Pope Benedict described the significant amount of time he had spent praying and reflecting upon the decision, inviting the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to inform his decision. He celebrated this process as a key part of the decision-making process but it is one that would be rarely done and certainly not named in today's secular world. But from a Christian perspective, who could not see the work of the Holy Spirit, initiating and affirming the decision by Pope Benedict, especially when this pope was regarded as amongst the most conservative of bishops in his time prior to being elected pontiff.

My prayer today celebrated the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives:

*Come, Holy Spirit:*
Come into my morning, my day, my night;
Permeate my thoughts and infiltrate my speech;
Repaint me inside and out.
*Come Holy Spirit:*
Come into every area I might try to shut you out of;
Revolutionize my relationships and refocus my heart;
Repair me, inside and out.

**Gonski Report – Australian Government Education Funding**
In recent weeks, there has been much discussion in the local and national media on upcoming announcements by the Federal Government on school funding - government, Catholic and independent. As has been discussed in past newsletters, the decisions made with respect to government funding have profound effects on the viability of our schools; if there are suggestions that the new funding model will negatively impact Catholic schools - primary or secondary - I will bring these to the attention of the Mercy Regional College community.

**Camps, Retreats & other school events**
As was highlighted in the last newsletter, the start to the school year has been a busy one with many major off-site activities, these include:

- The Year 11 camp to Melbourne over two days as well as a single day at the Noorat Community Centre.
- The Year 12 Retreat over three days at Lady Northcote Camp, Bacchus Marsh. Special thanks to Mr. James Castls and Mrs. Jo Saunders who on less than 24 hours' notice managed to move this retreat from its traditional home at Dunkeld to avoid the large Grampians bushfire. From all reports, the new venue was a great success!
- The Year 10 students who completed their week's Work Experience with a large number of employers around the local area and in Melbourne.
- The large crowd of Year 12 students and their families who gathered at the Camperdown Bowls Club to play bowls and enjoy a meal together.
The next couple of weeks also promises much with the College Athletic Sports next Tuesday and school photos, the Year 11 PARTY program and the first Year 11 Street Retreat scheduled.

**Year 12 Car Drivers**
A reminder to all students who have a probationary license and wish to drive to and/or from school that they need to see Mr. Castles to arrange this. The College has a formal set of procedures that govern this and includes a provision that students are not permitted to have other students in their cars unless they are siblings. This year, this provision has been extended to say that students who may be at school past 4.30 pm may be permitted to drive another Year 12 student home provided both sets of parents have agreed to this arrangement. Also a reminder that Year 12 students are to park opposite the Catholic church.

Yours in Mercy,

**Dr. Darren Egberts**
Principal

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**Deputy Principal Wellbeing**

Mr. Kerin Glennen

Welcome back for another year at Mercy, I hope the start of the Year has run smoothly for students and parents. So far at Mercy we have attended our School Mass, the Year 7 Welcome BBQ, Swimming carnival, Year 7 Camp, Year 12 Retreat, Year 11 Melbourne Experience, Ash Wednesday and Year 10 Work Experience all within the first 3 weeks.

There are still a great number of activities before the end of this term. The long weekend may be a timely break for all to recharge or rest up for the remainder of the term.

Last week our Year 12s attended retreat in Bacchus Marsh, Year 11s went on camp in Melbourne and the Year 10s completed their Work Experience. From all reports these activities have been positive.

This year we had 91 students placed for Work Experience with students travelling from Kerang to Melbourne, Peterborough to Gippsland and a number of other venues throughout Victoria. The reports that I have received have been very good. I congratulate those who represented our school. The feedback that has been forwarded to Mercy from employers has been glowing.

I remind students to return their Work Experience Book so they can be credited with successfully completing their week of WE, these books are required by Friday the 1st March. If there are any concerns, students have been asked to catch up with me.

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**O’Keeffe Campus Report**

Mr. Tony Wynd

After a really busy start to the year the Year 7’s have settled in to their first few full weeks of school activities very well. It certainly has been very busy! Swimming trials, school mass, swimming sports and the welcome BBQ made the first week fly by.

The camp at Bridgewater went very well with all students taking part in the activities provided with great gusto. It was great to see all the teachers both young and old joining in as well- in sandboarding, canoeing and caving.

The caving was a personal challenge for young and old, as the spaces we had to get through were quite tight, especially for those of us who are older and bigger!

The Year 8’s have made an extremely positive start and I’d like to thank them for the positive example and tone that they have set from day one. The junior school participation in the swimming sports was excellent and it was good to see students having a go.

The year 7 iPad roll out has taken place this week with much excitement, and we look forward to the students using these as a positive tool in their learning. Much work has been done by junior teachers and I’d like to thank Fiona Sargeant and the IT boys in their role as support for both teachers and students.

We have had some issues with bus travel and student’s behaviour on them. Just a reminder that where seatbelts are fitted they must be worn. We have had a number of students not following the driver’s instructions on this issue. Refusal to comply with their instructions may mean that they forgo the right to travel on the bus for a length of time. I have spoken to the year 7’s about this and they understand our expectations on this matter.

School photos are happening on March 13. We request that all students are neatly groomed in accordance with the school’s guidelines which are in the diary. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Starting on Thursday 28th Feb, we will again be running after school classes for any students who would like some extra help in the area of mathematics, or may want a little extra help with homework, these classes were very successful last year . They will be every Thursday from now on. Classes start at 3.20 and conclude at 4pm. For students who have training for Power teams it means that they can still get to training in plenty of time.

The classes will be run by Mr. Wynd and if you would like your child to attend please let the O’Keeffe office know.
Term 1 has already been very busy on the sporting calendar. The College swimming carnival day proved to be a very successful one with perfect weather and all students participating. Frayne once again showed their dominance winning the overall shield. The teacher vs. student race was won by the teachers despite the year 12's best effort to cheat.

Thank you to all who were involved in the day, in particular the PE staff.

Age group champions:
U/13 Kate Gaut & Scott Carlin
U/14 Hannah Justin & Lachie Davis
U/15 Mollie Gaut & Sean Darcy
U/16 Haylee Davis & Jack Williams
U/17 Dana Rhode & Ben Saunders
U/20 Kayla Spicer & Matthew Conroy

The HSSSD swimming carnival was another successful day for MRC, winning the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and overall shields. 61 students competed on the day with 5 age group champions. These being: Hannah Justin, Sean Darcy, Jack Williams, Kalya Spicer and Matthew Conroy.

Thanks to those staff who assisted on the day and the parents who came to cheer the team on. About 30 students with converge on the South West Zone swimming carnival on Friday 15th March.

Monday 11th February, class 7A and 7C left for Cape Bridgewater from O'Keeffe campus. Around snack time we stopped at the Giant Yambuk slide to eat and stretch. Already it looked to be beautiful weather for the long day ahead.

We then made our way to Swan Lake, where we ate our lunch and participated in sand boarding. Our instructor Daniel taught us to use a proper sand board. The dunes were amazing and we had a fabulous time.

After sand boarding we went to our camp located in Cape Bridgewater and settled in to our cabins. Then we all gathered in the hall to munch down our sausages and hamburgers. We all got onto the bus after tea to travel down to the beach and then to walk along the freezing pier. By the time we got back on the bus to go back to the camp we were all worn out. Mr. Moloney and Mr. Harkin then organized some get to know one another games. It was a very fun but tiring day. After our game time it was shower time then bedtime. Lights out by 11.00.

The next morning everybody was up by 7.30 to organise for the next day's activities. We all trudged down to the hall sleepily and hungry for the beautiful bacon and eggs that the wonderful cooks had served up for us.

We were then put into groups of house colours ready to go to our destination. Tindley were up for beach activities first. The activities included beach cricket, beach soccer and beach volleyball. All very fun indeed. First up for caving was Ryan where we were each strapped into safety helmets with torches on them. The instructor led us down into the dark dampness of the cave. Once we were inside we had to crawl, climb, roll and walk around. It was the greatest experience ever! Markey and Frayne had canoeing and raft making ahead. We all learnt how to use the oars and how to successfully make a raft without it sinking, although it took 3 or 4 times to actually make it without it falling apart! Once all the groups had finished we all rotated around. In the middle of all that we had lunch which was a snitzel sandwich.

At about 4.00 we were driven to the Portland heated pool and slide where everyone had a marvelous time. We then got back on the bus and we were driven back to the camp where we ate spaghetti bolognaise for tea. Then we rugged up and sat down to watch the movie Transylvania hotel in the old chapel. It was extremely funny.

Then it was bed time, we were all very tired. The teachers woke us up at 6.30 so then we were able to pack up before breakfast. We ate then we set off on the bus to the start of our long journey. The bus dropped us off at the beginning of the 7 km trek. Then
we set off. We started at the Petrified Forest and walked around the cliffs edge then ended back up at the beach. We ate our lunch then we played on the beach for a while, then it was time to go home. We stopped at the toilets in Port Fairy and stretched our legs on the park then we arrived back at the Mercy campus for the normal bus home. It was the best camp ever.

TERM 1

Friday 01 March
* Guest speakers at O’Keeffe - World Day of Prayer

Monday 04 March
* Presentation Ball Training

Tuesday 05 March
* MRC Athletics

Wednesday 06 March
* Presentation Ball training

Monday 11 March
* Labour Day public holiday

Wednesday 13 March
* School Photos
* Year 11 Street Retreat
* Year 11 Excursion - Party Program at the Alfred
* Presentation Ball training

Thursday 14 March
* Year 11 Street Retreat
* Year 11 Excursion - Party Program at the Alfred
* Outdoor Ed Surf Camp

Friday 15 March
* Outdoor Ed Surf Camp
* GW Swimming

Sunday 17 March
* Catholic Education Week begins

Monday 18 March
* P/T Online bookings open at 9.00 am
* Year 9 Retreat
* Outdoor Ed Excursion Sovereign Hill
* Presentation Ball training

Tuesday 19 March
* Year 7 Retreat
* MRC Board AGM and General meeting 7:30 PM

Wednesday 20 March
* Year 11 Street Retreat
* Presentation Ball training

Thursday 21 March
* Year 11 Street Retreat
* Outdoor Ed Scuba Diving Port Fairy

22 March
* Close the Gap Day
* MRC Presentation Ball
* No Year 11 students at school
Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

Presents:

Jesus stepped out of the boat

A forum on Asylum Seekers

Guest Speaker: Julian Burnside AO QC

In recent years Julian has become one of Australia’s leading advocates in relation to Australia’s treatment of asylum seekers and the protection of human rights and is also an accomplished author.

This forum offers an opportunity for reflection, input and discussion on recent developments in asylum seeker issues and to share a local perspective.

Saturday, 16 March 2013
10:00am-1:00pm

At: Damascus College: 1412 Geelong Rd Mt Clear

Guest speakers, reflection on the Gospel approach, discussion, sharing ideas and resources and planning future action.

Bookings: Please book online: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Click on Notice Board and then on “Jesus stepped out of the boat”.

CAREER EVENTS
March 2013

AVIATION

Australian International Airshow and International Aerospace & Defence Exposition: Events will take place between Friday 1 March – Sunday 3 March at the Avalon Airport, Geelong. You will be able to attend many events and watch displays. For ticketing and program information, go to http://www.airshow.com.au/

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Build your folio at the Australian Academy of Design: The Academy will be running a Build Your Folio Series day on Saturday 2 March, 10am – 4.30pm in Melbourne. You can choose from one of 5 focus areas-

- Advertising
- Fashion design
- Graphic design
- Photo media, and
- Visual arts.

Cost is $85. To register contact Joanne Brodie, 03 9676 9000, marketing@designacademy.edu.au, or go to www.designacademy.edu.au

AT MONASH SEMINAR SERIES

At Monash Seminar Series: Dates for March are as follows

- 5: Arts (Social Sciences and Humanities)
- 6: Architecture and Interior Architecture
- 7: Nursing, Midwifery & Emergency Health
- 13: Business & Economics
- 14: Science
- 19: Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy
- 20: Information Technology
- 21: Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

For more information and to register, www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/

YEAR 9 – 12 STUDENTS: SCIENCE

Chemistry and nanotechnology: La Trobe University Professor Mulvaney and Dr Nguyen will be hosting a lecture for students in Years 9 – 12 on Friday 15 March at the Bendigo Campus. They will explain the central role of chemistry in nanotechnology and students will see how certain materials are used such as quantum dots and liquid magnets. To register, email Kristen Pascoe at k.pascoe@latrobe.edu.au
CAREER EVENTS
March 2013

MEET MELBOURNE UNI

Meet Melbourne is a great way for regional students and parents to meet with staff from the University of Melbourne. You will be able to find out about topics such as:
- Study options
- Accommodation
- Scholarships
- The Melbourne Model
- Access Melbourne

March seminars include: Bendigo (26), Sale (26), and Warragul (27)

To register, go to http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/

MY DAY- CHARLES STURT UNI

Charles Sturt University will be running the following MyDay events in March:
- 14: Clinical Practice (Paramedic) and Nursing-Bathurst
- 22: Arts, Psychology and Social Work-Wagga Wagga
- 26: Accounting, Business, IT, Computing Studies, Management and Marketing-Albury-Wodonga

For more information and to register, http://www.osu.edu.au/go/myday

VETERINARY SCIENCE OPEN DAY

Considered pursuing a career as a Veterinarian? The University of Melbourne are hosting their annual Veterinary Science Open Day on Sunday 17 March at University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee, Victoria. You will be able to
- Experience amazing animal encounters, including seeing the Customs Detector Dogs in action.
- Step behind the scenes of our world-class Veterinary Hospital.
- Talk to veterinarians about their latest, ground-breaking research.
- Discover our internationally-accredited veterinary science course.
- Enjoy free, fun activities for kids of all ages - including our animal farm.
- Feast at food stalls to support the local scouts and our students.
- Engage with pet demonstrations, public lectures, interactive displays and guided tours.

The day provides prospective students and their families the opportunity to learn about pathways into the Doctor of Veterinary Science program. Register your attendance at www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday

So... you'd like to become a veterinarian?
ENGINEERING AT UNSW

Engineering Information Evening at UNSW: Parents and students are invited to this event being held **Wednesday 20 March** at the Kensington Campus. All engineering schools will be represented to ensure you can have your questions answered. For more information and to register, go to [http://www.eng.unsw.edu.au/student-parent](http://www.eng.unsw.edu.au/student-parent)

WHITEHOUSE INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

New courses at Whitehouse Institute of Design: Two information sessions will be held to promote the following new part time courses that will be offered this year: design fundamentals, fashion, millinery, interiors, marketing and visual merchandising.

The sessions will be run **Thursday 21 March**, 6.30-7.30pm at the Whitehouse Institute of Design, 672 Bourke Street, Melbourne. For more information, go to [www.whitehouse-design.edu.au](http://www.whitehouse-design.edu.au) or phone 03 9600 3625

ENGINEERING CAREERS EXPO

The Engineers Australia Careers Expo will be held **Thursday 21 March**, 11am - 7pm at the Etihad Stadium, Melbourne. You will be able to

- Participate in interactive workshops
- Talk to over 80 exhibitors from engineering, science and technological industries
- Attend inspirational engineering presentations.

For more information, contact Sarah Cooke, 03 9321 1703, [s.cooke@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:s.cooke@engineersaustralia.org.au) or go to [www.engineeringexpo.org.au](http://www.engineeringexpo.org.au)

DESIGN BYTE AT RMIT

Design Bytes at RMIT: This short course is for students who want to know more about design, preparing folios and interviews for TAFE and university courses.

You will also learn about design trends, and educational and career opportunities. The course will be held **Saturday 23 March**, 10am – 12.30pm. For more information, search for Design Bytes at [http://www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au](http://www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au)
FORENSIC SCIENCE CAREERS INFORMATION DAY

Have you considered a career in Forensic Science? Then you should attend the next Forensic Science Careers Information Day on Friday 5 April, 12.30 – 4.00pm at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM), Southbank.

Work at the VIFM includes

- Forensic pathology
- Clinical forensic medicine
- Medico-legal death investigation
- Paternity testing
- Forensic science services
- Preparing coroners reports
- Offering expert opinions on a range of issues

You will receive information on careers in the industry, but you will not be able to participate in a tour of the Building. There are only 70 spaces available so you will need to register quickly.

For more information and to register, go to [http://www.vifm.org/about-us/careers-at-vifm/](http://www.vifm.org/about-us/careers-at-vifm/)

ZOOKEEPER FOR A DAY

Are you in years 7 – 12? Do you want to work with animals? Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo present a day of activities where you get to work alongside their Zookeepers.

You will be able to:

- Help with food preparation
- Assist with animal enrichment
- Help with enclosure maintenance
- Listen to Keeper talks
- Do animal health checks
- Handle animals safely

Healesville Sanctuary: April 3, 5, 10,

Werribee Open Range Zoo: April 4, 8, 10,

EXPERIENCE LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Experience La Trobe is designed especially for future students to get a taste of what it’s like to be a La Trobe student for a day. You will be able to:

- Chat with staff and students
- Participate in structured workshops focused on your desired career/ course
- Meet student ambassadors and talk to them about studying at La Trobe

You can participate in workshops across a huge range of areas- this is an event not to be missed.

The event will be held Friday 5 April at the Bundoora Campus.

For more information and to book your workshops, please go to [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience)
CAREER EVENTS
April/May 2013

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Students in years 10 - 12 have the opportunity to attend the Access All Areas program at the University of Melbourne on **Friday 5 April**.

You will be able to learn about:

- Courses and careers including the ‘New Generation’ Melbourne undergraduate and post graduate programs
- Unique opportunities to enrich your degree such as concurrent diplomas, going on exchange and study abroad or participating in community involvement activities
- Access Melbourne and Melbourne Scholarships
- Accommodation options by visiting the residential colleges
- Your parents will be able to attend information sessions too.

For more information and to register, go to [www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/accessallareas](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/accessallareas)

MEET MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

**April seminars include:** Geelong (23), Ballarat (23) and Mildura (30)

**May seminars include:** Caroline Springs (8), Shepparton (22), Albury (23), Hamilton (29), and Warwambool (30)


AT MONASH SEMINAR SERIES

At Monash Seminar Series: **Dates for April & May** are as follows

**April**
- 17: Design and Fine Art
- 18: Psychology

**May**
- 1: Law
- 7: Health Sciences & Social Work
- 13: Medicine
- 21: Education & Nursing
- 28: Gippsland Campus Showcase
- 29: Biomedical Science, Radiography, and Nutrition & Dietetics
- 30: Engineering

For more information and to register, go to [www.monash.edu.au/studylife/student/seminars/](http://www.monash.edu.au/studylife/student/seminars/)

THE AGE VCE & CAREERS EXPO

This is a fantastic annual event which enables senior school students and their parents to be able to participate in a diverse range of over 150 seminars related to VCE subjects, gap year opportunities, vocational and higher education courses, career pathways and VCE study skills.

Over 190 organisations will be in attendance, enabling students to be able to talk to course and program advisers directly about their services. Cost is $10 per student and schools have been sent free passes.

The event is being held at Caulfield Racecourse between **Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 May**. To find out more, go to [www.vceandcareers.com.au](http://www.vceandcareers.com.au) or call 03 9590 8881
PUBLIC NOTICES

JUNIOR FOOTBALL & NETBALL

TRAINING AND REGISTRATION NIGHT (all grades)

Simpson Recreation Reserve
Wednesday March 6th
5pm

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE OF PARENTS
FOR A MEETING AT 6PM IN PAVILION

All present and new players welcome

INQUIRIES:
Craig Thompson
President
0429 966 173

Andrew Weil
Secretary
0407 966 246

Melinda Gouwels
Treasurer
0428 966 122

A Camperdown Playspace Fundraiser

FITNESS MASTER CLASS

Sunday 3rd March 3-6 p.m. Camperdown Apex Park, Princes Hwy

Adults $10   Family $15   Children Participate Free—Special Children’s sessions from 5.20pm

The Fitness Master Class is a continuous 3 hour fitness session offered by local instructors

Peter Corney, Tania Rowan, Carol Manifold, Hanna Gutt & Alice Combeby

Participate at your own pace.   Join in as you please.   Take a break when you want.

BBQ & REFRESHMENTS

Available from 5.30

Give It A Go!

Special thanks to all our Trainers for generously donating their time

TERANG ATHLETICS CLUB

Are you in Year 5 and above and love to run?

Come to the Terang Recreational Reserve

at 4:00pm each Wednesday afternoon (excluding holidays)
and be coached by qualified
coaches Richard Wearmouth and Jill McKenzie

TRINITY COLLEGE COLAC & THE MASTER CLASS PROGRAM PRESENTS

JANE RUTTER
FLUTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE
AN AUSTRALIAN IN PARIS

FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS CALL: 5222 2077
22 MARCH 2013, 7.30PM
COLAC PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE
9-6 PALL STREET COLAC 3250
ADULTS: $15 CONCESSION AND CHILDREN: FREE

Barwon South Western League
SKATE, BMX & SCOOT COMPETITION SERIES

Feb 2nd - Warrenville Skate Park
Feb 9th (Class B) - Exmouth Skate Park
Feb 16th - Irrawong Skate Park
Feb 23rd - Portland Skate Park
Mar 2nd - Camperdown Skate Park
Mar 9th - Port Fairy Skate Park
Mar 16th - Colac Skate Park (Grand Final)

Registrations: Front & Back - Grades 1 & 2
Feb 22, 3-5pm - Feb 23, 3-5pm
Feb 29, 3-5pm - Mar 1, 3-5pm
Mar 8, 3-5pm - Mar 9, 3-5pm
Mar 15, 3-5pm - Mar 16, 3-5pm

For registration forms and more info visit: www.skatepark.ymca.org.au