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 2016
“Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all”.

At our Beginning of Year Mass on Wednesday, the Church’s Year of Mercy was featured in a number of ways – through the opening song and reflection, in Fr Matthew’s homily and in my own address as principal in the assembly that followed. The declaration by Pope Francis of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (from 8th December 2015 – 20th November 2016) challenges us to bring the face of God’s Mercy to the world. My prayer today celebrates this significant year:

Lord Jesus Christ who is Mercy Himself,
We entrust ourselves and our children to Your care.
We believe in Your love for us and
Your desire for our healing.
We pray, in this Year of Mercy, for the return
Of all lost souls to Your heart.
We embrace our cross with Yours, knowing it is there
We will find the love deep enough to heal our wounds.
Jesus, we trust in You!

Following the special celebration of Eucharist, our College community welcomed our New Year 7 students with bibles and our New Year 12 cohort with badges; it is most appropriate that these two year levels at either end of the school are celebrated in the start of the new school year.

Mercy Regional College Evacuation Plans
In recent days, there has been significant press coverage of a large number of hoax bomb and other threats made to schools in Victoria and interstate. Although each of these threats has subsequently found to be a hoax, schools have an absolute responsibility to take them seriously. The College has put significant time and resources over the last four years to develop a comprehensive emergency management plan (EMP) that meets the needs of our particular situation and we have taken time at least annually to trial different scenarios within that EMP.
Given the broader context, we conducted a trial offsite evacuation at our O'Keeffe Campus on Thursday morning with all students and staff moving to the Noorat Recreation Reserve. The trial and our procedures worked very well.

With so much coverage in the press, I have taken the opportunity in this newsletter to highlight a number of key points within our broader College EMP:

- Our College EMP reflects best practice in schools and follows the template required by the CEO Ballarat.
- It has been developed by a team here at the College and designed to meet the specifics needs of Mercy Regional College including our dual Campus structure.
- The EMP includes consideration of McAuley Campus being adjacent to St Patrick’s Primary School with most emergencies triggering coordinated responses at both sites.
- The plan includes provision for offsite evacuation at either campus with electronic links to the College’s rolls, website and email if available.
- There have been annual or twice-annual trials of each of the scenarios within the EMP most of which have included the staff and students of St Patrick’s PS.
- If the College (or St Patrick’s) received a threat, our priority would be to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors and therefore we would not necessarily be able to communicate with parents and the broader school community until the emergency had been resolved. There have been some comments in the press that schools failed to tell parents that an evacuation had taken place – this is understandable as evacuation by nature require schools to move offsite.

The College Newsletter
As the year begins, can I take this opportunity to remind parents and members of the broader College community of the importance of the school Newsletter. Although now distributed electronically, it remains the key means by which we promote events, concerns and achievements at Mercy Regional College. It allows all members of the College community an effective means of communication and the opportunity to be fully involved in the life of our great school. I strongly encourage parents and families to spend a few minutes every couple of weeks reading through it.

New Students and Staff
Earlier I made mention of the welcome extended to our incoming Year 7 students at the mass; this year we have 68 students joining us and it was a pleasure to meet so many of the families of these students last night at the O’Keeffe Welcome BBQ. I encourage any parents with students new to Year 7s to make use of the Orientation booklet, ‘So Your Child is Coming to Mercy’ which includes detailed information on most aspects of the transition to secondary school. Extra copies can be obtained from O’Keeffe Campus Reception. A welcome is also extended to those students joining us in Years 8 – 11 and I trust that your entry into Mercy is filled with care and compassion.

Opening of Mercy Regional College Stage One Buildings
Following my article is an invitation detailing the arrangements for the opening and blessing of the College’s new Science and Year 12 classrooms that were completed late last year. This important event will occur on Friday 26th February from 11.30am – 12.30pm on the Dimora Ave side of the new buildings. Bishop Paul Bird will be officiating and I would like to extend an invitation to any parents and friends of the College to join us. If you would like to attend please email my secretary Mrs Sue Bohm on sue@mercy.vic.edu.au

Ash Wednesday
Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of the Church’s important season of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection, asking for forgiveness, prayer and doing works for those less fortunate than ourselves. Ash Wednesday itself is solemn day marked by the traditional liturgy of having the cross drawn in ashes on our forehead. Students and staff will gather (mostly in parish centres) for this liturgy. There will be no meat available for sale from the College canteen on Ash Wednesday.

Hats are Compulsory
Over the last 18 months, students at Mercy Regional College have become much more responsible with respect to the compulsory wearing of broad-brimmed College hats when outside during recess, lunchtime or during sporting activities. Given our geography and the devastating impact that UV radiation can have on teenage skin over a long period of time, being sunsmart is the only safe and healthy option. Students without a hat are asked to move indoors at recess and lunchtime.

Camps and Retreats
The start of the school year is always particularly busy at Mercy and 2016 is typically so with Year 7 students travelling to Cape Bridgewater next week for their three day camp. With three Year 7 homerooms this year, the decision was taken for students to attend house groups. Year 10 students will undertake one week's work experience the following week and also out of the school for part of that week will be our Year 12 students who will be on retreat at Bacchus Marsh and Year 11 students who will be on camp in Melbourne. I wish all students and staff all the very best for each of these exciting endeavours.

Australia Day Awards
Last week, I had the privilege of spending part of Australia Day at the Corangamite Shire’s Australia Day celebrations. A significant part of these celebration was the recognition of local people who have contributed in a particularly meaningful way to our region’s community.
spirit. Amongst those recognised were a number of Mercy Regional College students and staff: Chloe Gibson, Stacey and Hayley Riches and Matt Murray, as well as 2015 MRC student Christopher Barks. Also nominated for Community Event of the Year was the College’s VCAL class for the “Dance Till the Cows Come Home” Barn Dance and last year’s school production, “High School Musical”. Special congratulations to old collegian Mr. Toby McKenzie who was awarded the Male Young Citizen of the Year.

2015 VCE Results

Congratulations to all students on the very good results that Mercy Regional College achieved in last year’s VCE studies. Dux of the College achieving an ATAR of 92.05 was Jack Williams. Jack has recently received news that he has been offered a place at Monash University studying Medicine.

Subject Dux were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Williams</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Williams</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Williams</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Lee</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Lee</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Lee</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Lee</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Williams</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Williams</td>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Ryan</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Ryan</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Watt</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Rowan</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Rowan</td>
<td>History Revolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maggie Lee</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Lucas</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebony Reynolds</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgina Cook</td>
<td>Outdoor &amp; Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Clarke</td>
<td>Product Design &amp; Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia Cain</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Lucas</td>
<td>Food and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Moloney</td>
<td>Health and Human Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaghan Bone</td>
<td>Studio Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Hill</td>
<td>I.T. Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Bouchier</td>
<td>VET Furnishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meg Lenehan</td>
<td>Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Barks</td>
<td>Software Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhys Casson</td>
<td>Interactive Digital Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spirits of Anzac Award

Last Wednesday, the College was thrilled to hear that Tate Tregear-Copeland (10B) had been selected as a recipient of the 2015-16 Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize. The competition is open to all Years 9 & 10 students across Victorian government, Catholic and independent schools. Tate will be part of an overseas study tour to Lemnos, Gallipoli and the Western Front. Congratulations to Tate on a marvellous achievement and what an amazing opportunity!

Presentation of the McLeod Shield

During second semester last year, I wrote a number of times regarding the introduction of an expanded College house competition that culminated in the awarding of a shield to recognise the winning house. Throughout the competition, students were able to earn points for their house through participation in sport, performing arts, student leadership and, more broadly, through acts deemed by College staff as worthy of recognition. In 2015, the shield was won by Markey house.

At last Wednesday’s assembly, I was privileged to announce that the shield had been formally named as the McLeod Shield recognising two brothers and Mercy old collegians, Nathan and Bernard McLeod. Both brothers were passionate about their house and their enthusiasm and example will provide an excellent foundation for this important competition. On Wednesday, we were fortunate to have Chris and Sharon present to present the shield to the leaders of Markey House, Indi Kent and Sebastian Hulme.

Frayne House victors again

As I finish this article, students are returning from a highly successful College Swimming carnival which saw Frayne House win narrowly from Markey House. Full results in our next newsletter.

Yours in Mercy,

DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL
Invitation

The Principal, Dr. Darren Egberts
with the staff and students of Mercy Regional College
warmly invite you to the

Opening and Blessing of the
Mercy Regional College
Stage 1 Buildings

Date: Friday 26th February, 2016
Time: 11:30am – 12:30pm

Address: Henderson Street, Camperdown Vic 3260
• A light lunch will be served following the opening and blessing.
• Parking is available in the grounds of St. Patrick’s Church, off
  Walls Street, Camperdown.

RSVP to sue@mercy.vic.edu.au
Friday 19th February, 2016.
Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning
Mr. Chris Grant

Parent Access Module
The Parent Access Module is designed to provide relevant, informative, valuable and timely information about the academic progress of your child, along with the College calendar, daily notices, attendance record, timetable, booklist behavioural tracking count and also the ability to book your parent teacher interviews online.

To access the Parent Access Module, go to the College Website – http://www.mercy.vic.edu.au, click on the Parents link and then PAM (Parent Access). If you have forgotten your username and password from 2015, please click on the Forgot Password link. New parents would have received their login details at the parent information night and BBQ. Once you log in, you will see the photo and name of your child or children. Click the photo to explore the learning areas (subject homework and assessment tasks) and further around the Parent Access Module.

It is encouraged that parents would access the Parent Access Module on a weekly or fortnightly basis throughout the term, and have frequent discussions with your child on their academic progress and completion of assessment and homework tasks.

If you are having any difficulties logging in or navigating around PAM, then please contact the College office.

From the Business Manager
Mrs. Lynn Wadley

School Fee Accounts
School Fee accounts for 2016 have been posted out to all families. Included was information detailing the different methods available for you to pay your school fee account as well as a Fee Deduction form. I encourage you to adhere to the timelines for payment of fees. Should you foresee difficulty in meeting the timeline, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
Commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $225 per year is paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school.

CSEF applications open from Term 1ne 2016.
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
* on the first day of Term 1, or;
  * on the first day of Term 2;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date (29th February, 2016).

Contact the College Office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

### Term 1 - 2016 Dates

**Monday 8th – Friday 12th February**
- Year 7 Camp

**Wednesday 10th February**
- Ash Wednesday

**Monday 15th – Friday 19th February**
- Year 10 Work Experience

**Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th February**
- Year 12 Retreat
- Year 11 Camp

**Friday 4th March**
- Presentation Ball
- No classes for Year 11 students

**Monday 7th March**
- Labour Day holiday – no school

**Wednesday 9th March**
- School Photos

**Wednesday 23rd March**
- GWR Swimming
- Term 1 concludes for students
- Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00pm – 8:00pm)

**Thursday 24th March**
- Parent Teacher Interviews (9:00am – 1:00pm)
- Cambodia Immersion Trip commences until Tuesday 29th March.

**Friday 25th March**
- Good Friday

**Sunday 27th March**
- Easter Sunday
Head of O'Keeffe Campus
Mr. James Castles

Community
Commencement Mass was a great opportunity to welcome back all students, however it was extra special to introduce and welcome our Year 7 students to the College Community. The O'Keeffe students have started the term well and we are all looking forward to the year ahead.
If parents have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Year 7 BBQ Night
Thank you to all parents, students and staff members for attending the Year 7 BBQ on Thursday. The night was a great opportunity to connect students, parents, and staff. We also used this occasion to share some important information with parents, we covered areas such as PAM (Parent Access Module), Homework Expectations, Pastoral Care Program, Behavioural Tracking, and key dates and events. Thanks again to staff, students, and parents for taking the time to be a part of this important College event. We look forward to working with all our parents to ensure our students are learning and are enjoying their time at Mercy.

Excellence and Achievement

O'Keeffe Campus Leaders
O'Keeffe Campus Captains: Charlie Scanlon and Krystal Baker
Vice Campus Captains: Chloe Davis and Luke Francis
Social Justice: Isabel Rowan and Jordan Gray
Tindley: Cameron Vagg and Amy Vogels
Frayne: Robert Hibburt and Zali Searle
Ryan: Ollie Darcy and Jasmine Moore
Markey: Isabelle Everett and Anna Cole

Thank you to all parents for attending our first Junior School Assembly, where our leaders were officially presented to the O'Keeffe Campus. We wish the students best of luck in their duties this year.
**Director of RE**  
*Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders*

**Loud Fence**

Members of our school community may have noticed a number of colourful ribbons tied to the fence at the O’Keeffe Campus. These ribbons were placed on the fence during the school holidays by community members. They are a part of the Loud Fence movement. The ribbons, tied to fences, are a symbolic act of solidarity with the victims of sexual abuse. There are already ribbons on significant Non-Catholic and Catholic Church, school and business fences in Ballarat and other areas. They are a sign that people are remembering those who are affected, because it affects us all in various ways and to different degrees. We wish to acknowledge the suffering of those whose lives have been irrevocably changed through an evil beyond simple understanding. We walk with them, remembering in hope that God’s mercy is with us all.

The ribbons have been placed on the fence by community members as a way of promoting healing. The abuse of innocent children in a multitude of institutions, not just the Catholic Church, is now an accepted fact. The Loud fence movement is a response to the silence that has been so prevalent in regard to the suffering of individuals and families. It is so important for there to be avenues for people to heal and to support one another.

---

**Library News**  
*Mrs. Maureen O’Loughlan - Library Manager*

After a hectic beginning to the school year, staff and students have begun to settle into routine - for the time being! The library is being well utilised and I would like to remind everyone that students are most welcome to use the library for study before school and also till 4.30pm on weeknights.

Please note that a Book Club gathering for the Senior Campus will be held next Friday 12th February at lunch time in the library. The gathering for the O’Keeffe campus will be on Wednesday 17th February at lunchtime. Bring along your lunch and a current book you are reading! All students are welcome, both new and old members!

This year we are celebrating "Library Lovers Day" during the month of February and to recognise this day we are inviting all staff and student’s to tell us about the books they love. Check out the display in the Library and there may be a surprise next week.
Welcome back to school. I hope you had a restful break and are feeling energised and motivated for the year ahead.

If you haven’t read the Weekly Career News before, I encourage you to take 5 minutes each week to read it. The ‘News’ contains information about:

- Tertiary (e.g., university) and vocational (e.g., TAFE) courses and institutions
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Focus articles on courses and occupations, and
- Upcoming career events.

I also encourage you to focus on your career development this year. This will assist you to develop post school plans in terms of courses you may like study or occupations you may like to pursue. Career development activities may include:

- Attending tertiary and vocational institution open days
- Undertaking work experience
- Volunteering for a leadership position at school or in the community
- Undertaking community service
- Playing sport or engaging in hobbies
- Reading through university and TAFE course guides, and exploring the myfuture website
- Completing a vocational assessment
- Speaking to past students of the College who are studying, training or working in an area you are interested in (e.g., building, law).
- Meeting with me for a career counselling interview.

These are only a small number of examples. You develop career ideas through exposure to things like the media, speaking to people, engaging in any of the above and often you come up with career ideas through chance encounters. Reading the Weekly Career News will also assist you to develop career ideas. I hope you enjoy reading the weekly updates.

Applying for Medicine/ Dentistry/ Oral Health/ Optometry?

If you are applying for any of these health science courses, you may need to sit the Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT).

This is a three-part test that you sit in July 2016 and selected universities use your UMAT score as part of the selection process, in conjunction with your ATAR and in some cases an interview.

You will be tested on the following- logical reasoning and problem solving, understanding people and non verbal reasoning.

You will only have one chance to sit the UMAT this year- the test will be held Wednesday 27 July. You must be in Year 12 and you must register online to sit the test by 5pm 3 June.

It is important that you start to prepare for the test early. There are several private companies who offer commercial preparation programs – www.nla.edu.au and www.medentry.edu.au are examples.

It is important to note that the universities who use the UMAT do not endorse any of these companies and you will receive free preparation materials once you register for the test (registration is now open).

Please go to http://umat.acer.edu.au for more information about the UMAT and to see if you have to sit the test.

You can also join the ACER UMAT Facebook page to keep up to date with key information, http://on.fb.me/1JTVJSf
Are you interested in Journalism? Twelve secondary school students run the ‘Under Age’ website which is a collaboration between The Age Newspaper and Express Media. You can visit the website regularly to read topical articles and there may be an opportunity in the future to contribute. www.theunderage.com.au

**Casual employment:** You can sign up for employment at the following websites:

- McDonald’s, http://bit.ly/1BmPeo

About 80% of all job vacancies aren’t advertised, so it is crucial that you market yourself to businesses with an excellent resume and cover letter. Make sure you tell as many people as possible that you are looking for work as often employers rely on ‘word of mouth’ to recruit for their positions.

For excellent job seeking tips, check out the resources at Victoria Youth Central and speak to your Career Advisor: www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/

**Victoria Police Internship:** Law students at Victoria University have access to a 10-week internship with the Legal Services Department and Prosecutions Division of Victoria Police. A small number of students will be selected each year to undertake placements in a variety of police specialist areas including:

- Melbourne Prosecutions Unit
- Research and Training Unit
- Civil Advocacy Unit
- Commissions and Inquiries Division, and
- Police Coronial Support Unit

High achieving Year 12 students who receive a place in the University, are eligible for the Chancellor’s Scholarship which is $20 000 over four years.

For more information on the Law program at VU, go to http://bit.ly/1UC4eEL

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Charles Sturt University (CSU). ‘MyDay’:** Each year, CSU showcase their courses via a series of hands-on events. A MyDay will be held Friday 27 February at the Wagga Wagga campus showcasing courses in:

- Nursing
- Biomedical Sciences, and
- Medical Radiation Sciences (Medical Imaging, Radiation Therapy, and Nuclear Medicine)

For information and to register, go to www.csu.edu.au/comyday

**AFS Student Exchange:** If you are interested in participating in an overseas exchange program or would like to find out more about becoming a host family, AFS runs over 100 online and face to face information seminars each year. For a list of upcoming events, go to www.afs.org.au/

**Flight attendant careers session:** Aviation Australia is running a Cabin Crew Career Session on Wednesday 2 March at Qantas Flight Training Centre, Airport West, Victoria. For information and to register, go to http://bit.ly/1WVwQ0M
SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
STAGE ONE

RECRUITING FOR A NEW PROGRAM IN THE SPORTS INDUSTRY

- Get industry experience with AFL Victoria
- Complete a Certificate IV in Business (BSB40215) & a Certificate IV in Sport Development (SIS40612)
- Once completed, you can apply for stage two of the program & study a dual Diploma in Business & Sport Development or gain direct entry to La Trobe University.*

IF YOU WANT TO WORK IN SPORT, FIND OUT MORE.
AFLSPORTSREADY.COM.AU/EDUCATION OR CALL 8413 3500.

*Conditions apply. Upon successful completion of a Certificate IV qualification with our Registered Training Organisation, Sport&Ready Education (RTED 22354), students may be eligible for direct entry into one of our university partners. Students who successfully complete a Diploma level qualification may also be eligible for course credits. Availability and eligibility criteria vary in each state. For further information please go to www.aflsportsready.com.au.
TERANG JUNIOR BASKETBALL
Season 1 – Commencing Friday 4th March
REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

Our Compulsory online registration and payments are now being taken for our junior players aged between 7-16. Players must have turned 7 before 1st Jan 2016.

The registration closing date is Friday 19th February.

It is important you are registered by this date to be included in a team.
To register & pay for this season and be placed in a team all you need to do is follow this link which will take you straight to our Fox Sports Pulse website.
www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=1-793-0-0-0
Please ensure that you select your age group -i.e. Primary or Secondary Student, Your BVC affiliation fee will automatically be added upon registration. It is important to make this selection to ensure the correct fees are applied. If any further assistance is required, Contact Kym Grundy 0427954324
Or email us @ juniorbasketballterang@gmail.com

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS

MORTLAKE COLLEGE
INVITE THE COMMUNITY

Date:
Tuesdays—
February 23rd
& March 1st, 2016

Time:
6 pm—8 pm

Venue:
Mortlake P—12
College Library
10 Hood Street
MORTLAKE

A 2 week program for parents of
12—15 year olds

Engaging Adolescents will:
- Help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of early adolescents
- Provide parents with information and skills for developing and maintaining trusting, positive relationships with their young adolescents

During sessions parents have the opportunity to discuss
- Family life with teenagers
- Normal phases and behaviour
- Sorting out behaviours
- PASTA strategy for teenagers
- Communication

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS CONTACT MAREA ON:
Phone: 03 5559 3000
email: marea.sholly@centacarewarrnambool.org.au

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL