ISSUE 3-4

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.

Fathers Day
Last Sunday we remembered our own fathers, may we also remember our Heavenly Father, who is the source of all our blessings. Give us the grace that we might be loving fathers, not only to our own children, but to all children.

FATHERS
“When I was:
4 years old:
   My dad could do anything
6 years old:
   My dad is smarter than your dad
14 years old:
   Don’t pay any attention to my father. He is so old fashioned
30 years old:
   Maybe we should ask dad what he thinks. After all he’s had a lot of experience.
50 years old:
   I'd give anything if dad were here now so I could talk this over with him”

MRC Oratory Competition
The Annual Mercy Regional College Oratory Competition was held on Tuesday 28th August at the McAuley Campus. It was a wonderful night of public speaking and I congratulate all participants on their efforts. The results of the competition were:

Winner of the Junior Section: Elizabeth Smart
Junior Endeavour Award: Laura McKenzie

Winner of the Senior Section: Georgia Muir
Senior Endeavour Award: Matt Hinkley

I would also like to extend my thanks to the adjudicators for the evening, Mr John McKinnon, Ms Angela Preiss and Mrs Mary Daffy who had the very difficult task of determining the winners for the evening. Our English teachers, under the leadership of Mrs Margaret Leahy certainly ensured that the public speaking was to a very high standard. Well done to all!

Student Achievement
Congratulations to Amy Unwin who has now also been awarded the Australian Vocation Student Prize for her exceptional skills and achievement in vocational training. Amy will receive $2000 from the Federal member for Wannon David Hawker in the near future.

Genevieve Darcy this week won the Inaugural Hampden Football/Netball League under 13 best and fairest award. Congratulations Genevieve!

Xavier Gstrein continues to achieve in the world of cycling having recently claimed a top ten finish in his first National Road Cycling Championship in Canberra over the weekend.
Car Raffle
Saturday 1st September marked the beginning of the 33rd year of the Mercy Regional College Car Raffle. The car raffle is certainly now the most important fund raising effort of our PTFA and particularly important this year with our building redevelopment program well under the way. Raffle books and rosters for selling tickets will be distributed next week.

This year’s prizes are as follows:

1st Prize: 2007 CL Ford Focus Sedan valued at $27,955 including on road costs (Auto, prestige paint, air conditioning, power steering, cruise control CD player, and ABS) supplied courtesy of Manifold Motors.

2nd Prize: Travel Voucher valued at $2000 supplied courtesy of Harvey World Travel, Camperdown.

3rd Prize: Electrical Goods Voucher valued at $1000 supplied courtesy of Camperdown Retravision.

4th Prize: Jewellery Voucher valued at $200 supplied courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown and Colac.

5th Prize: Dinner Voucher valued at $100 supplied courtesy of Madden’s Bar & Bistro, Camperdown.

This year we have selected a more fuel efficient car which will ensure the running costs for the eventual winner will be more economical. Along with this change we have also increased the value of the travel voucher by $1000 and added a new prize, a $1000 electrical goods voucher from Camperdown Retravision.

The College is indeed grateful to our abovementioned suppliers of raffle prizes for their generosity. Where possible it would certainly be appreciated if our school community could support these businesses.

I look forward to a very successful car raffle result, which can be easily achieved if all families work together to sell their book of raffle tickets and assist with the selling roster.

PTFA Meeting
On Monday the PTFA meeting was held at the O’Keeffe Campus with a very pleasing number of parents and teachers present – most encouraging! At the meeting the uniform was discussed and the meeting agreed to a shirt for the boys and girls would be made up and put on display at both campuses for comment. This will occur during term 4.

Mrs Jo Saunders also presented to the meeting on the issue of “Cyber Safety” in today’s world. Many helpful strategies to deal with children and the internet were presented along with a list of very useful websites to assist parents in dealing with the issues associated with the use of the internet. I have listed these websites below for your information.

www.wiseuptoit.com.au
www.cybersmartkids.com.au
www.cybersafekids.com.au
www.staysafe.org
www.netalert.gov.au

Central Australia Trip 2008
Unfortunately the College is only able to accommodate 84 students on the Central Australia trip and as a result a waiting list has been established. Therefore, it has been decided that the school trip in 2010 will also be to Central Australia, thus ensuring that those who are currently on the waiting list will be able to travel to Central Australia while attending Mercy Regional College. The students on this list will be given priority in 2010. Details relating to the 2008 trip will be forward in the near future.

Principals Meetings
At a recent Ballarat Diocese Catholic Secondary Principal’s meeting in Mildura one of the points raised was the identity of a Catholic school. The discussion was centred on the five essential marks of a good Catholic school, namely:

- The Catholic school is inspired by a supernatural vision
- It is founded on Christian anthropology
- The school is animated by communion and community
- It is imbued by a Catholic worldview throughout its curriculum
- And the school is sustained by Gospel values.

These essential marks are firmly articulated by Archbishop Michael Miller, the Secretary for the Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome, who I had the pleasure of meeting when in Rome earlier this year. The challenge for us is to keep on seeking to ensure that our identity is focused on such points. Without them we are not a Catholic school.

Last Thursday and Friday the Principals of Mercy Schools from Victoria met at the College. The meeting focused on the issues that we face as Principals of Mercy schools and our ability to continue to promote the charism of Catherine McAuley within our own communities. Our meeting concluded on Friday with Fr Barry Ryan leading us through a discussion of the Church and the world – the context in which we work.
**Second Hand Uniform Sale**
At the PTFA meeting this week it was decided that an opportunity would be provided for parents to buy and sell second hand uniform items before the change to the summer uniform at the beginning of Term 4.

On Tuesday 18th September from 3.30pm to 4.30pm second hand uniforms will be available for sale at the McAuley Campus in Room 16. If parents have items of uniform that they would like included in the sale please place items in a clearly marked bag with the items of uniform priced and identified. These items need to be handed in at the College office by no later than Friday 14th September.

**Coming Events**

- **Wednesday 12th September**
  - Year 7 Retreat Day

- **Thursday 13th September**
  - Year 9 Retreat Day

- **Wednesday 19th September**
  - Year 12 Trial English Exam

- **Friday 21st September**
  - Term 3 concludes at 2.10pm
  - Year 7 - 10 Interim Reports mailed out

- **Monday 8th October**
  - VCE students commence Term 4

- **Tuesday 9th October**
  - Year 7 - 10 students commence Term 4

**Mercy Awards**

- **VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award**
  - Rhiannon Cabel for Community Service.

- **Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award**
  - Sam Erwin for his application to his studies and his work in the Community Visiting program.

- **Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award**
  - Kerry Geppert for her support of other students in the class.

**From the Director of English**
Margaret Leahy

Mercy students continue Tradition

On the evening of Tuesday, 28th August, students from Mercy Regional College once again participated in the school’s annual Oratory Competition, an event that has now been a part of the College’s calendar for twenty years.

Members of the College community gathered in the De Chantal Stadium to take part in what has become one of MRC’s longest standing traditions, organised by the English faculty.

Students in all English classes throughout the College participate in the initial rounds of the competition, with ‘speak offs’ being held to decide who will be the class representatives in the final.

Mrs Margaret Leahy, English Co-ordinator, welcomed parents and students and noted that the competition was “the end result of the teaching and learning process that takes place in the classroom on a daily basis.”

Mrs Leahy also acknowledged all of the students at Mercy Regional College who prepared speeches and provided the necessary competition from which the finalists were selected.
Students in Years 7 to 9 speak on their chosen topic for four minutes, while senior students prepare a six-minute speech.

This year it was the turn of the Science faculty to provide the topics and saw students presenting speeches with titles such as ‘Global Warming – Myth or Reality?’ and ‘Farming for the Future’.

As in the past, the standard was extremely high and the judging panel, consisting of Mrs Mary Daffy, Ms Angela Preiss and Mr John McKinnon, had a difficult time coming to a decision.

Congratulations go to the Senior and Junior Division winners, Georgia Muir and Elizabeth Smart, and to the Senior and Junior Endeavour Award recipients, Matt Hickey and Laura McKenzie. These students received book vouchers and will have their names added to the Competition Shield, alongside the winners from the last nineteen years.

From the Wellbeing Coordinator
Kerin Glennen

Internet at home:
The internet has brought an almost infinite world of opportunities into both our lives and homes. Instant communication, information discovery, online publishing and so much more. Some may say how did we live without it, but unfortunately it is not all good news. Just as in the real world, there are potential problems and dangers associated with Internet usage.

The internet allows users to be anonymous. It is impossible to really know who you are talking to in chat rooms, so deception becomes easier. This means that online contact has the potential to result on harmful or even exploitative contact in real life.

Exposure to inappropriate and illegal material is, of course a major concern to parents. From pornography to misinformation, it's important to recognise that not every thing available on the internet is not educational or even benign. Some online advertising can be invasive and annoying. This can increase the vulnerability of children as well as invading their privacy.

At home the best protection for children using the internet is and will always remain parental supervision.

By creating your own family rules of when the internet can be used and housing the computer in the “family” room, not in the bed room out of the way.

- Having a filter installed on the computer to block access to inappropriate content.
- Be involved in a child’s online activities.
- Parents have a discussion with children centered around do not believe all you read online.
- If you have a complaint about Internet content that you think is inappropriate, visit the Australian Broadcast Authority’s complaints website at :aba.gov.au/hotline
- NetAlert also has a range of services that can be accessed free of charge, 1800 880 176 help line or netalert.net.au/help.
- Advice for families regarding internet safety can be accessed on netalert.net.au/00380-Newsletter.asap

The internet is a good recourse for students to learn and also gain a wider outlook on the world they live in, as parents let us be smart , be involved and protect our children from the down side of this technology.

Free educational materials can be ordered by calling 1800 880 176 or email enquiries@netalert.net.au so that all can enjoy the internet and all that it offers in a safe environment.

Please find attached to this newsletter a Lifeline Telephone Reference Guide for 2007.

Also if anyone is interested in attending a community forum on mental health details in the flyer on pg 5.
MY BRUSH WITH DEPRESSION
David Hawker MP, Deakin University and Greater Health invite you to a COMMUNITY FORUM on mental health

Greg Wilson is an artist from the Hunter Valley in NSW whose episodes with depression caused him to attempt suicide. With the help of friends and his love of art he has managed to cope with his illness and in between painting, travels around Australia to spread his message of hope.

Thursday 6 September 2007
5.30 pm for a 6.00 pm start
Deakin University, Warrnambool Campus,
Princess Highway, Warrnambool, Building J
Room J2.01

RSVP ~ Booking is essential for catering purposes
Contact phone number ~ 55616405
Dynamite for the Minds
Report by: Ebony Boyd and Rebecca Van den Eynde

On Tuesday the 28th of August the Year 9’s from Camperdown and Noorat were involved in a Dynamite for the Minds activity day at the Noorat campus which was run by the Ballarat Uni students.

There were about 60 students who came and did lots of interesting and fun activities with us. We split up into 8 Groups and had to come up with a name and costume to wear. Some of them were, The Australians , The Sporties , The Hippies , The Trackie Dacks , Bogan’s , The Rainbows and The Blazers. All the Ballarat Uni students were dressed up as well to suit the activity they were running.

Each activity represented eight different learning styles. Some of the activities were a Maths class where you had to solve a murder by working out simple problems and asking the suspects questions. A music group where you had to make up a song about Noorat and see if you could identify the songs they chose for us.

A team work group where we had to keep a fire going and make garden beds for vegetables. And other various activities with different learning styles.

After each round of activities they kept our score and there was a winner at the end of the day. The winners for the day were the Hippies consisting of Rebecca Van den Eynde , Alecia Van Dynhoven , Joe Gleeson , Luke Mahony , Damian Wynd , Megan Johnstone, Melinda Corona. They received a Dynamite of the Minds trophy which will be kept at the Noorat campus.

Overall it was a fantastic day and we really enjoyed it .It was great to mix up and meet lots of Ballarat Uni Students and on behalf of the Year 9 students we would like to thank Mr. Castles for organising the day and making it possible for them to get up here. You did a fantastic job and we all enjoyed it. Thank you for your help.

From the Director of Learning and Teaching - Careers Report
Mrs. Lisa Pope

Monash University
On campus accommodation – application are accepted at any time but preference is given to those received by 30th Nov ’07. Applications forms for campuses can be downloaded from their websites.
Berwick Campus Email - berwick.mrs@adm.monash.edu.au
Caulfield Campus Email - inmews.mrs@adm.monash.edu.au

Clayton Campus Email - admissions.mrs@adm.monash.edu.au
Gippsland Campus Email - oncampus.accom.gippsland@adm.monash.edu.au
Peninsula Campus Email - peninsula.admin@adm.monash.edu.au

Experience Monash – Peninsula Campus – Tuesday, 25th September
Monash University invites all year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents to experience the Peninsula campus during the September school holiday. Find out about study opportunities and what it’s like to be a university student and participate in a number of information sessions and faculty workshops. Participants have the opportunity to stay for the whole program or only register for the sessions they are interested in. Early bookings are advisable as there are quotas for some of the sessions and registrations will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.
For more information and to book online visit www.monash.edu.au/study/events/experience or contact Val Foster on 9905 4164.

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIES COLLEGE
Advanced Diploma of Photography
For employment opportunities in photography -
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Retail and Manufacturing
- Education
- Digital Imaging Specialists
- Government/Medical/Science
- Production Houses
- Studio
- Professional Freelance Photography
- Newspapers/Magazines

For entry to the Advance Diploma of Photography at PSC each applicant is required to apply through VTAC AND complete the PSC Course application form (to be received by 10th October) and attend an interview with folio.
For more information: Phone: Student Relations Officer 9682 3191 or email info@psc.edu.au

Are you in Year 10, 11 or 12 and interested in Science & Engineering, the Australian Student Mineral Venture applications close Friday 14th Sept.
Application forms are available from the office or you can log onto their website www.asmv.org

JMC ACADEMY – PRACTICAL WORKSHOP
An excellent chance to experience your future career in:
- Audio Engineering – 3-5th December 10am-4pm & 14-16th January 10am - 4pm
- Digital Animation – 3-5th December 10am-4pm & 14-16th January 10am - 4pm
The Curriculum Team is also currently examining the Year Nine Program at O'Keeffe campus for 2008 and I will be meeting with the new Curriculum Consultant for the Catholic Education Office in the diocese Mrs Anne Doody in the coming weeks to look at how we can implement some of the recommendations from the Year Nine O'Keeffe Review which was conducted last term.

The Curriculum team has also decided to trial Year Nine exams at the end of the Year in the following subjects: Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities. These exams will take place over two days and will occur on the following dates 3rd and 6th of December. The Year Ten exams will also take place on 3rd, 4th and 5th of December followed by Year Ten promotion interviews for all students on the 6th and 7th of December. These interviews will enable staff to review how each student has performed over Year Ten and discuss individual student's needs as they prepare for VCE. Year 11 exams will occur on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of November.

The transition program for VCE students will also take place at end of next term. The Year Ten into Eleven transition program will occur on the 10th, 11th and 12th of December. The Year Eleven into Twelve transition program will occur for five days on 26th to 30th of November. All timetables for these programs will be released early term 4.

Finally all our Faculties are busy working on finalising VELS documentation and preparation for the full implementation of VELS for next year. All reports from Year Seven to Ten will be reporting to the VELS dimensions by mid semester 2008.
PUBLIC NOTICES

Derrinallum Tennis Club

Twilight Tennis Season 07 / 08 begins Monday 15th October 2007 [breaks over Christmas and New Year to resume in Feb 08]. A Grade & B Grade Teams [if sufficient numbers] Membership $30 payable 1st night and $5 per game thereafter. All enquiries and interested players to contact Angela Bignell on 5597 6613 by Friday 14th Sept.

Camperdown Cricket Club

U/16 Training to commence on Fri 21st Sept. 4.45pm at the Camperdown College nets. All past and new eligible players are most welcome. For further information contact Rob McLaughlin on 5593 2087.

School Holiday Tennis Coaching Clinic

Every year in the September school holidays we endeavour to have a coaching clinic. This year the dates for the clinic will be Oct 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th. Each group having 2 X 1hr lessons on non-consecutive days at a cost of $20. Any child interested in having coaching can contact Paul or Jo Stephens on 5593 2471 to obtain a registration form.

World Education Program (WEP) Australia

Invites students and parent interested in 2008 / 09 student exchange programs to attend the next WEP information evening on Sept 18 at 7.30pm at the Kingston Arts Centre 979 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin. For Further information contact Debra Cain on 1300 884 733 or 9598 4733 info@wep.org.au or www.wep.org.au

BREAST CANCER & MEN’S CANCER AWARENESS FORUM

David Hawker MP, Deakin University and Greater Health Invite you to a COMMUNITY FORUM on Breast Cancer and Men’s Cancer Awareness

Guest Speaker: Dr Theresa Hayes Medical Oncologist

Friday September 7, 2007
5.30pm for a 6.00pm start
Deakin University, Warrnambool Campus
Princes Highway, Warrnambool,
Building J, Room J201
Phone: 5561 6405

RSVP ~ Booking is essential for catering purposes
Contact phone number ~ 55616405

Proudly Supported by The Trish Cairns Breast Cancer Awareness Association
Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)  
Rural and Regional Partnership model

In 2008 through partnership with Victorian rural and regional schools the Ballarat campus of ACU National plans to offer the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) in a flexible mode which will allow preservice teachers to work closely with rural and regional schools. The Ballarat campus will be the ‘hub’ of the course providing intensive and online instruction, working with the ‘satellite’ schools to undertake the professional training of the preservice teachers.

The hub-satellite partnership would involve GDES students being based 2 days per week at specific rural and regional schools.

WHY A DIFFERENT MODEL?
In offering the course in this mode ACU National aims to provide access to teacher education qualifications to individuals from rural and regional areas who might not be able to participate in a wholly on-campus course. ACU also aims to address rural and regional schools’ needs for teachers in particular curriculum areas.

Draft arrangements for Semester 1, 2008

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Arrangement</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>4-5 days Intensive study at Ballarat campus</td>
<td>Introduction to Curriculum and Education studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>March / April</td>
<td>2 days / week at school base</td>
<td>Orientation to schools and work of teacher</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>4 weeks Professional Experience at ‘base’ or other school</td>
<td>Student Teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>May / June</td>
<td>2 days / week in assigned school</td>
<td>Development of professional and teaching skills</td>
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WHO?
Individuals with suitable undergraduate degrees interested in undertaking teaching qualifications.

WHAT WOULD THIS INVOLVE FOR SCHOOLS?
Provision of a school-based mentor who would assist preservice teachers in their professional learning in the school environment.

WHAT WOULD THE PRESERVICE TEACHERS BE DOING IN THE SCHOOL?
Preservice teachers’ activities in the school would be structured both by the university program and the needs of the school. It is expected they will be experiencing various roles during the year, in most cases they will do one supervised teaching block in their home school and one at a school in another community.

METHODS
These will be negotiated with schools which are part of the program. In 2008 it is likely to include Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, English and IT.
ACU would seek to address the schools’ staffing needs where possible.

DURATION OF THE COURSE One year

Contact person at A.C.U. Dr Josephine Ryan on 9953 3260 or email jryan@patrick.acu.edu.au

ADMISSION timely applications through VTAC by 29 September 2007.
For prospective student enquiries please contact:
The Student Centre: ACU Ballarat Campus (Aquinas)
Phone 5336 5344
Email: studentcentre@aquinas.acu.edu.au
Jetport Self Park is the cheapest and the safest parking for Melbourne Airport.

Present this flyer when you check-in at Jetport Self Park to

RECEIVE A $5.00 DONATION FOR YOUR SCHOOL.

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
PO BOX 152
CAMPERDOWN VIC 3260

Jetport Self Park
5D South Centre Rd,
Tullamarine 3043
03 8335 0400
www.jetportselfpark.com.au
Melways reference: Map 15, D2

Offer is valid until 1/2/08 and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount offers.