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.

Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner
Friday 16th November, our graduating class for 2007 gathered at St Patrick's Church Camperdown to celebrate the Eucharist together followed by the presentation of awards. Particular thanks are extended to Fathers Denis Dennehy and Barry Ryan for celebrating our Mass. This was then followed by a wonderful Graduation dinner held at the Noorat Community Centre. The Noorat Community Centre proved to be a terrific venue which was wonderfully decorated and as always our graduating students looked magnificent. The highlight of the evening especially from the staff's point of view was the heartfelt speeches made by the College Captains followed by the very thoughtful presentation to each Year 12 teacher. As a staff we were humbled and very appreciative of the efforts that the students went too to say thank you.

A thank you is also extended to some of our Year 11 students who served the tables on the nights along with Year 11 parents who assisted in the kitchen.

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<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Foster</td>
<td>Sharyn Thulborn</td>
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<td>Bridget Foster</td>
<td>Lesa Thornton</td>
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<td>Melanie Jones</td>
<td>Barbara Ryan</td>
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<td>Lauren Johnston</td>
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<td>Molly Bradshaw</td>
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<td>Nicole O'Sullivan</td>
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Year 12 Prizes and Awards
At the conclusion of our Graduation Mass awards and prizes were presented the following students:

Corangamite Citizenship Award
Erin Adams

Academic Student of the Year
Joshua Saunders

Principal's Award
Ben Harkin

Caltex Allrounder
Julianna Staunton

Ursula Frayne Religious Education Award
Monique O'Sullivan

English Award
Joshua Saunders

Mathematics / Science Award
Joshua Saunders

Humanities Award
Rhiannon Cabel

Commerce Award
Scott Gallichan

Health / Sciences Award
Libby Buchholz
Bob Reed Memorial Creative Arts Award
Kerry Bant

Hospitality Award
Nicholas Downs

VCAL Award
Stefan Phillips

Congratulations to all our prize winners!

PHOTOS
Photos from the Graduation Awards Night.

These are the Award / Prize Winners of the night.
**House Captains 2008**

I am delighted to announce that the following students have been appointed as House Captains of Mercy Regional College for 2008.

Frayne House: Roseleen Lenehan & Liam O'Connor  
Markey House: Nadia Moloney & Martin Sargeant  
Tindley House: Holly Noonan & Ben Moloney  
Ryan House: Jessie Meade & Adam Thulborn

**Student Achievements**

Congratulations are extended to Jahd Anderson and Matilda Anders who have been invited to participate in the 2008 track and field tours in either America or Canada. Jahd and Matilda were selected based upon their results at the 2007 Victorian Catholic Schools Track and field Championships which were held in Melbourne in September. Congratulations Jahd and Matilda on being selected to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity to travel and compete internationally against athletes of a similar age and standard.

**Arts Night and Car Raffle**

On Wednesday evening the College’s Annual Arts Evening was held. This evening is an opportunity for the showcasing of students work from the Arts and Technology Faculties. I am sure most people who were able to get along to the evening would agree that the students’ technology projects, art work and performances were outstanding. Congratulations to all students who had their work exhibit and thanks are extended to the staff of the Arts and Technology Faculties: Mr Jared Lyn, Ms Tina Jenkins, Mrs Maria Russell, Mrs Jenny Binder, Mr Wayne Walsh, Ms Lyn Davies, Ms Danae Fraser and Mrs Annette Price.

The following are photos of students work that was on display at Arts Night.

Also the drawing of our Car Raffle has become very much part of the Arts Night. This year the winners were:

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**

Winner: Terry Payne, Mortlake
Andrew drawing out the winning ticket.

2nd Prize: Travel Voucher valued at $2000 supplied courtesy of Harvey World
Travel, Camperdown
WINNER: Skylar Carpenter, Terang

3rd Prize: Electrical Goods Voucher valued at $1000 supplied courtesy of
Camperdown Retravision
WINNER: Darren Williams, Noorat

4th Prize: Jewellery Voucher valued at $200 supplied courtesy of Showcase
Jewellers, Camperdown and Colac.
WINNER: Reg Spearing & Meredith Theologous

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

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.

Thank you to all parents who ensured raffle tickets were sold at home and those parents who also sold tickets at various locations around the district. The success of the car raffle is due to your efforts. Of particular notes is the work of the PTFA Committee and Maureen Adeney who again has co-ordinated the raffle this year.

Fr Barry Stickland
Last Sunday, I had the pleasure of attending Fr Barry Stickland’s Farewell Mass and Luncheon from the Parish of Timboon. Fr Barry has announced his retirement as Parish Priest after ten years of outstanding service to the community of Timboon and the College. As a member of the College’s Board of Management and as Chairperson of the Finance Committee Fr Barry ensured that the College is well placed for the future. He is a person of great integrity, who has been very loyal to the College and a wonderful support for the Principals’ of the College over the past ten years. His stewardship has ensured that the College’s financial position has gone from strength to strength thus allowing for the Stadium to be built and for our current building project to be undertaken. I have greatly valued Fr Barry’s advice and guidance over the past three years. We wish Fr Barry all the very best in retirement knowing he will always keep an eye on what is happening at Mercy.

Presentation Ball
At a recent meeting for the 2008 Presentation Ball only a small number of parents attended, which was disappointing. Some important decisions need to be made for 2008 along with the allocation of tasks that need to be undertaken to ensure the evening runs smoothly.

I thank the following parents who have already agreed to help in the following area, but more assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Flowers: Mrs Susan Jenkins
Photos: Mrs Jo Saunders
Suits: Mrs Marie Harney
Booklet: Mrs Monica Hickey

Two positions still need to be filled:
- Overall Presentation Ball Co-ordinator (this could be shared between two people) Geraldine Conheady who has held this position in the past will assist the new coordinator next year to ensure a smooth transition.
- Supper Co-ordinator (ideally a 2008 Year 10 Parent).

Any parents interested in these positions please contact the College.

Mathematics Tutoring Software
Below is a “Communique to Parents” re information from Consumer Affairs warning parents to exercise caution before purchasing Mathematics tutoring software. This software costs on average around $6,000. Because of the high cost of the software and the fact that suppliers are selling to people who cannot afford it, many people take out linked credit contracts with interest rates at around 24% which brings the price up to around $8,000-$10,000.
Of particular concern with regard to these companies is:

- Their pressure sales tactics and the often unconscionable conduct of the sales representatives;
- The cost of the software (comparable software starts at $54);
- The appropriateness of the software for the child;
- The intense pressure these costs place on school children and families.

**Communiqué to Parents**

**Be wary of Maths Tutorial Software**

Many of you will have heard ads on the radio or seen people in shopping centers spruiking maths computer tutoring software.

Be aware that if you sign up for a “free demonstration” or a “free aptitude test”, a salesperson will come to your house to sell their product. Consumer Affairs Victoria has had many complaints from parents who have been pressured into signing on-the-spot agreements with these maths software companies. Some were told that they would harm their child’s future, others that their child would not win a scholarship if they did not buy. Some signed the contract because the salesman simply would not leave.

Even if you do allow the sales rep into your house, do not feel pressured into signing up. Under the Fair Trading Act 1999, the sales rep must:

- not stay longer than an hour, unless you give them written permission.
- provide you with a contract that is clear.
- give you a written 10 day cooling off period, during which you can change your mind and cancel the contract (but you must cancel in writing).*
- not pressure you in any way.
- leave if you ask them to.

Maths tutorial software generally costs $5,000 - $6,000. If the sales rep offers a credit contract to finance the sale, it will cost even more – often between $8,000 and $10,000 when you include interest payments.

This is a major purchase, so before you sign:

- be sure that you can afford it. If you sign a credit contract it will cost you much, much more.

If you have second thoughts you can cancel the contract within the 10 day cooling off period and get your money back. Make sure you cancel in writing.

If you feel you have been pressured into buying one of these maths tutoring programs, contact Consumer Affairs Victoria on 1300 558 181.

**A Graduate’s Prayer**

To conclude this newsletter article, I provide you with the following prayer and ask that all members of the Mercy community pray for all our graduating students as they embark on the next stage of their lives and offer them our support and best wishes, praying for their happiness.

Father I have knowledge, so will you show Me now how to use it wisely and find a Way somehow to make the world I live in a Little better place. And make life with its problems a bit easier to face.....

Grant me faith and courage and put Purpose in my days. And show me how to Serve Thee in the most effective ways so all My education, my knowledge and my skill, May find true fulfilment as I learn to Do Thy will.....

And may I ever be aware in everything I Do that knowledge comes from learning And wisdom comes from you.

Author unknown

**Coming Events**

**Friday 30th November**
- Year 11 students conclude

**Monday 3rd December**
- Year 9 Exams
- Year 10 Exams

**Tuesday 4th December**
- Year 7 2008 Orientation Day
- Secondhand Book and Uniform sale 1:00 - 3:30pm (Portable classroom on St Pat’s oval)
- Year 10 Exams

**Wednesday 5th December**
- Year 10 Exams

**Thursday 6th December**
- Year 9 Exams
- Year 10 Promotion Interviews
Friday 7th December
- Year 10 Promotion Interviews

Monday 10th December
- Year 10 to 11 Transition Program

Tuesday 11th December
- Year 10 to 11 Transition Program

Wednesday 12th December
- Year 10 to 11 Transition Program

Thursday 13th December
- Mass of Thanksgiving for the Year at St Patrick's Church Camperdown commencing at 10.00am
- Term 4 concludes for Year 7 - 10

Tuesday 18th December
- Teaching Staff conclude

Thursday 20th December
- Office closes

2008 Calendar

Monday 21st January
- Office re-opens (limited hours 10 – 2.00pm)
- Collection of Books at McAuley Campus (10.00am – 3.30pm)

Thursday 24th January
- Normal office hours commence (8.15am – 4.30pm)

Monday 28th January
- AUSTRALIA DAY

Tuesday 29th January
- Teaching Staff commence
- Staff PD Day

Wednesday 30th January
- Staff PD Day

Thursday 31st January
- Year 7, 11 and 12 students commence
- Welcome and Introduction to Year 7 BBQ at McAuley and O’Keeffe Campuses commencing at 6.00pm

Friday 1st February
- Year 8 – 10 student commence
- Swimming Trails Year 7 – 9

Sunday 3rd February
- Presentation Ball Training

Friday 8th February
- MRC Swimming Carnival

Sunday 10th February
- Presentation Ball Training

Monday 11th February
- Year 10 Work Experience commences (all week)

Wednesday 13th February
- Year 7 Camp and Year 11 and 12 Retreats commence
- Year 10 Work Experience concludes

Friday 15th February
- Year 7 Camp and Year 11 and 12 Retreats conclude

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Claire Foster
Bridget Foster
Melanie Jones
Lauren Johnston
Molly Bradshaw
Holly Noonan
Johanna Glennen
Nicole O’Sullivan
Allie Lucas

For waitressing at the Year 12 Graduation Dinner.
Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Sam O'Flynn for all his help with Arts Night set-up and his general attitude around the school.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Sam McDonald For his work in the band for the music production.

Noorat Show Creative Writing Competition

Report by: Fiona Sargeant - Creative Writing Steward Noorat Show

Congratulations to the students listed below for their success in the recent Noorat Show Creative Writing competition. Many parents and students came to view the entries, which were received from schools in our region. Student work was well presented and of a high standard. Thankyou for your contributions to this competition.

Year 7 & 8 Section

55 Word Story
Second - Grace Evans 8B
Highly Commended – Kelsey Alexander 8A

Short Story
First – Caleb Kissick 8N
Second – Elise Bant 8A
Highly Commended
- Bridget O'Brien 8N
- Joe Muir 8N
- Connor Saunders 8A
- Helena Evans 8A
- Genevieve Darcy 8A

Poetry
First – Elisabeth Smart 7A
Second - Bridget Glennen 8N
Highly Commended
- Kerry Geppert 7A
- Simone Fleming 7A
- Jocelyn McDonald 7A

Year 11 & 12 Section

Short Story
First – Roseleen Lenehan 11
Second – Patrick Janes 11A
Highly Commended
- Holly Noonan 11A
- Michelle Ryan 11A

Also congratulations to Madeline Moloney and Ellie Kenna both 7N won First Prize in the cake section with their chocolate cake at the Noorat Show.

Second Hand Book & Uniform Sale

Will be held on Tuesday 4th December 1:00pm to 3:30pm in the Portable classroom on St Pat’s oval at McAuley Campus Camperdown and will be coordinated by members of the PTFA.

There are a number of conditions we would like all parents and students to follow for this day:

- If who wish to sell any of your child’s text books or uniform items must be brought to the College office by Monday 3rd December to give us enough time to set-up.
- All items MUST have an envelope attached to them with the student’s name and price that you require written on the envelope otherwise they will not be accepted. It is NOT the responsibility of our office staff or the PTFA helpers to do this for your son / daughter.
- We will accept ONLY text books that are on the current booklists for 2008. This information is available to all students at Mercy. A copy of each booklist will be pinned up on the student notice board where your son / daughter can check prices of new texts. We recommend that if the book you wish to sell is in very good condition then you would ask two thirds of the price of a new text, good condition you would ask for half the price of a new text. Books that are in poor condition will not be accepted in the sale.
- Please remember that any books or uniform that you purchase in the sale belong to other parents and students and are not the property of the College, so it is important that payment be made on the day [either cash or cheque] as there is not Eftpos facilities available.
- Items will not be placed on hold, so please do not ask the PTFA staff on the day to do so as a refusal may offend.

Thankyou for your cooperation.
**From the Wellbeing Coordinator**  
Kerin Glennen

**Summer time....Alcohol and our youth...**

Is there a safe level of alcohol use for teenagers?  
The short answer is no, there is no safe level of alcohol use for teenagers, especially those under the age of 18. The Australian Alcohol Guidelines, provide information on how many standard drinks a person can consume before their health is placed at high risk of harm. Parents are the best judge of whether teenagers are ready to drink alcohol. It is however, particularly risky for a person under the age of 16 to drink alcohol. It is also usually UNLAWFUL for under 18s to buy, be supplied with or drink alcohol on licensed premises.

**What harm can happen?**  
Alcohol can have many consequences, including accidents, health problems and social problems. Alcohol related problems are affected by things such as where the alcohol is consumed, who people are with when they drink, how easy it is to obtain alcohol, cultural influences, and individual characteristics.  
Intoxication and hangover problems including poor decision making, greater risk of sexual assault, injuries, drink driving, aggressive behaviour and violence, and poor school performance. These problems can occur for anyone who drinks to the point of getting drunk on any single occasion.

**What if my teenager drinks alcohol?**  
When it comes to young people the Australian Alcohol Guidelines recommend the following:  
Young people should not drink to become intoxicated.  
Where alcohol is available to them, young people should be under the supervision at all times.  
Young people should keep their drinking to a minimum and never drink above the level set for adults... preferably they should drink less.  
Teenagers should not drink at all for several hours before undertaking risky activities such as climbing, swimming or working with machinery.

A gradual, supervised introduction to alcohol is recommended and alcohol should never be mixed with other drugs. The relationship between parents and children is important for healthy teenage development. Teenagers need love, security and boundaries. Parents need to establish and enforce clear standards for teenage behaviour. It is important that parents should set an example they are happy for their teenagers to copy, know what’s going on in teenagers lives and know their whereabouts.

Effective communication between parents and teenagers is important parents should take responsibility for this.

**Further Information**  

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**From the Director of Learning and Teaching**  
Mrs. Lisa Pope

**Careers Report**

**Tax File Numbers**  
If your child requires a TAX FILE NUMBER through the school please come to the office for an application form. These forms will be sent to the Australian Taxation Office on 10th December.

**Red Card Training Accreditation Training Day**  
The University of Ballarat is offering MRC students and their families the opportunity to obtain their ‘Red Card” in preparation for work experience or any work in the building, plumbing or electrical trades. These cards are valid for 10 years and cost $100.00. The training day will be held on Wednesday 12th December from 9.30 - 4.30 at the McAuley Campus.  Please obtain a permission slip at the office if you are interested. 15 students have already applied to get their ‘Red Card” and the maximum number of participants for the course is 25.
Blane’s Newsagency In Colac
This is a great opportunity for a year twelve school leaver and they would be happy to take on someone who has decided to defer Uni next year or someone who is looking for a long term career opportunity. Please contact Greg Baker at Westvic on 5232 2882

Apprentice Dairy Farmer
An apprenticeship for a dairy farmer is available on a farm in Weerite - 38 to 40 hours per week. For more details please see Mrs Lisa Pope

Electrical Apprenticeship
Gerard Ryan Electrical in Camperdown has an excellent opportunity available for an enthusiastic and self motivated person to undertake an electrical apprenticeship early in 2008. Applications close on 7th December at 5.00pm. Please contact Westvic Workforce on 5523 2255.

Bricklaying Apprenticeship
An exciting opportunity is available for a reliable and self motivated individual to commence a full time Bricklaying apprenticeship with a locally based business. Applications close on 5th December at 5.00pm. Please contact Wayne Robertson at Westvic Workforce on 0437 170 660

Automotive Apprenticeship
An exceptional career opportunity is available for an enthusiastic individual to commence an automotive apprenticeship with a leading Camperdown based franchised automotive workshop Manifold Motors. A position description is available upon request with applications to be forwarded to Wayne Robertson at Westvic Work Force by 5.00pm on 5th December. Telephone 0437 170 660.

For more information on Careers, new University course details, application forms, etc. Please see Mrs. Lisa Pope.

CURRICULUM REPORT

Year Nine and Ten Exams
Please find attached the exam timetable for students in Year Nine and Ten. These exams will be conducted in the stadium, except for some elective subjects which require students demonstrating applied skills.

Year Ten Promotion Interviews
This year some students in Year Ten will be asked to take part in Promotion Interviews before advancing to VCE. This process enables staff and students to review current student academic performance in light of the subjects these students have chosen to study in VCE.

This process is designed to open up discussion between parents, staff and students on how they can work together to ensure that each student is working to their potential. Parents will be contacted by Mr Lachie Lee if their child has been highlighted for review. However, we would also encourage any Year Ten Parent who has any concerns to contact the school for an appointment during these days.

Therefore, unless notified by the school Year Ten students will not be required at school on Thurs 6th and Fri 7th of December. All Year Ten students are expected to be present for Year 10 into VCE transition beginning Mon 10th of December.

Year 10 into VCE Transition
The Year Ten transition timetable to prepare students entering Year 11 VCE next year is attached. The transition program for these students is beginning on Monday 10th of December to Wednesday 12th of December.

End of Semester Reports
The end of semester reports for all students from Year 7 to 11 will be mailed on Wednesday the 19th
### MRC/ St. Pat’s Canteen Roster
Term 4 - Weeks 9 & 10
Starting time 10.15am. Any enquiries to Rose ~ on 55932011 or A/H on 55932862. Thanks.

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<th>WEEK 9</th>
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<td>MON DEC 3</td>
<td>MON DEC 10</td>
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<td>DEBBIE CHESLETT</td>
<td>EMMA SEARLE</td>
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<td>5593 1227</td>
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<td>TUES DEC 4</td>
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<td>DENISE VAN DEN EYNDE</td>
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<td>THUR DEC 6</td>
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<td>CAROLYN RICHARDSON</td>
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<td>MICHELLE EVANS</td>
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<td><strong>THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR HELP THIS YEAR</strong></td>
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