FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Vision
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Goals
Community

Welcome Back to Term 3
Welcome back for the commencement of Term Three. I trust that the holiday break enabled students and their families to spend some precious time together and that all students have returned with the enthusiasm and determination to tackle the second half of the year.

Enrolments Year 7 2009
Our enrolments have closed for 2009. The College has received many enrolments for our year 7 classes next year. Once again indications are that all our Year 7 places will be filled. The College will need to make certain decisions about the number of Year 7 classes in the near future. I urge all parents who have not completed enrolment forms to do so as soon as possible so that initial planning for 2009 can commence. There is still a small window of opportunity for late enrolments to be considered. I would be grateful if you could advise other families who may be considering Mercy Regional College for their child’s secondary education of the above.

Funding of Catholic Schools
On Wednesday, 2nd July 2008, Coalition leaders Ted Baillieu and Peter Ryan promised an extra $400 million in funding for Catholic Schools. Under the Coalition plan, $400 million would be provided over four years to:

- Undertake capital works and maintenance to repair existing classrooms and improve facilities.
- Improve internet access and bandwidth to the same level as government schools.
- Cover the cost of complying with state government accountability requirements and improve teacher and principal professional development.

For your information I have attached to this newsletter a full copy of the Coalition Policy on Pgs 7, 8 & 9.

This is indeed welcome news for the Catholic sector, however, to date, the Brumby Labor government has not indicated that it will match this funding arrangement. One can only hope that, with the release of the opposition policy, this will place renewed pressure on the government to seriously consider increasing the funding to Catholic schools to a just and equitable level.

Mercy Regional College Staff Retreat 2008
The last two days of term 2 saw the staff of Mercy Regional College participate in a retreat facilitated by Fr Chris Gleeson SJ. The retreat focused on the Ministry of Teaching. The first session titled Beyond looked at our role as Catholic educators and the challenge of taking not only our students but ourselves beyond our classrooms, to find “God in all things.” Session two looked at Jesus the teacher using Him as inspiration for our spiritual journey. The final session Telling the bigger story focused on our Catholic story, linking this with the Mercy Regional College story. The Retreat then concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist as a community.

During the retreat Fr Chris reflected on education as the profession which seeks to free people - to give each
individual the care and the wherewithal, to achieve their potential. Often, we are blind to these gifts and talents and they can only be released for us, even chiselled out of us, by teachers who have a vision and a love to set them free. Clearly, the teacher has enormous power and responsibility in his or her hands. The good teacher is an enabler, one who enables and empowers their pupils to take on wings. The teacher is he or she who frees, who liberates from ignorance and thus releases the child for the energies of the mind and the imagination, without which none would ever be fully alive or fully human. The aim of teachers is “to give wings to the soul.”

World Youth Day
We welcomed back this week our World Youth Day pilgrims. From all accounts our students have concurred with much of the media coverage of World Youth Day - that it was a truly life-changing experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I look forward to hearing more from our students over the next few weeks and months as they embark upon the challenge of ensuring that our parishes can be enlivened by their experiences. A particular thanks to Mrs Jo Saunders, Leesa Hendrickson, Terry and Marie Harney who accompanied our students to Sydney.

Our Mercy Pilgrims were:
Peta Bourke, Lucy Keogh, Sarah Kemp, Anna Whiting, Olivia Moloney, Lucy Adams, James Lenehan, Michael Harney, Maggie Hulme, Stacey Hall, Lauren Johnston, Jacqui Heffernan and Rachael Harney.

News from East Timor
Mrs Helen Kenna has made contact with the College several times since arriving in East Timor, via text messages. She indicates that all is going well but conditions are primitive. However all her students are very eager to learn and are most grateful for the assistance being provided, so much, so that they seek extra tuition. From what Helen has indicated there is no doubt about the value of education for this struggling country and I trust that our students will come to an increased appreciation for their educational opportunities as a result of Helen’s experience in East Timor.

Staffing
I am also delighted to announce that Mrs Fiona Pugh has been appointed as our new Music Teacher. Fiona will commence mid August. Mrs Maria Russell will conclude her time at MRC at the end of this week. Maria has been an outstanding teacher at Mercy and has been instrumental in the development of a very positive learning and teaching environment during her time at the College, particularly in the Performing Arts area. Maria will be sadly missed by her colleagues and students. We wish Maria all the very best for the future.

We also welcome Claire Younis who will be taking Helen Kenna’s place for all of term three. I am sure everyone will make Claire and Fiona feel at home at MRC.

Works completed at the College during the Term Break
During the term break our Grounds and Maintenance staff have been hard at work completing many tasks which continues to improve the Colleges facilities. In particular the following works have been completed:

- Painting of the Convent upstairs has been completed which now ties in with downstairs
- Continued external painting of all school buildings at the McAuley Campus
- Establishment of a new resources storeroom outside the Year 7 classrooms
- New shelving has been put into the Art store room as well as the store room off the board room
- Air conditioners have been installed in the Year 12 rooms and heaters in the Year 11 classrooms
- A new footpath connecting the stadium to the rest of the school has been established
- Renewed paving at the entrance to St Patrick’s has been completed
- New library furniture and shelving has been installed
- Blinds for the library have also been installed
- Tenders for the O’Keeffe Campus close on July 25th
- Additional outside seating is nearing completion
- Extensive cleaning of all areas of the school have been completed

Thank you to our dedicated grounds and maintenance team!

Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on Pg 6, a reflection titled “Along the Track” written by Jim Quillian from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. Jim’s reflection this week is titled “Every Bush Afire with God”. I hope you enjoy this reading.

PTFA Meeting
The next PTFA meeting is on Monday 4th August at the McAuley Campus in the John Tindley Resource Centre (new Library). This meeting will allow parents to see the newly furnished library which was made possible as a result of the PTFA donation to the College of close to $40,000 last year. The 2009 Presentation Ball will also be discussed at the meeting.

Assessment Planners
The Assessment Planners for Semester 2 will be given to each student in homeroom as well as a copy posted home to parents. The next two weeks’ Assessment Planner for all year levels is on Pg 8 of this newsletter.

Andrew Watson
PrinciPal
### Term 3

#### Week 3

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

**Wednesday 30th July**
- MRC Oratory Competition

**Thursday 31st July**
- Mathematics Competition

#### Monday 4th August
- PTFA Meeting @ McAuley Campus – 7.30pm

#### Wednesday 6th August
- Year 10 Retreat (boys)
- Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews (boys)

#### Thursday 7th August
- Year 10 Retreat (girls return/boys depart)

#### Friday 8th August
- Year 10 Retreat (boys)
- Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews (girls)

#### Monday 18th August
- Mid Term Break (no classes)
- Outdoor Education Snow Camp commences
- Science Week commences

#### Wednesday 20th August
- Year 7, 2009 Enrolment Interviews

#### Thursday 21st August
- Outdoor Education Snow Camp concludes

#### Friday 22nd August
- Frayne Speech Festival – Warrnambool
- Science Week concludes

## EMA Applications

Application for the Education Maintenance Allowance 2nd Instalment are being taken.

If you were paid the EMA for the 1st Instalment and your child is enrolled at the same school for the 2nd Instalment, you will not be required to complete a new application form.

If you did not apply for the EMA in the first instalment, and are the beneficiary of a Centrelink Pension, Allowance or Benefit as of the 1st day of Term 3 (14 July 2008) you will be eligible to apply. Application forms are available from the school office.

Your application must be submitted by no later than the 1st August 2008.

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### Mercy Awards

**VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award**

![Image](image)

Roseleen Lenehan for excellence in academic interviews for the Defence force.

**Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award**

![Image](image)

Sarah Grendon for consistent, sustained application and effort in her studies.

**Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award**

![Image](image)

Lewis Taylor for doing a great job of umpiring and interacting with the primary students during the Hampden Schools Network Football day.

### Sporting News

**Lachie Lee**

In sporting news, two MRC Year 10 students have been chosen as part of Vic Country football teams playing in National AFL carnivals.

Luke Mahony, from Year 10B, is representing Vic Country at the U16 National Championships on the Gold Coast.

Tom Watson, from 10C, is a member of the Vic. Country U15 football team which is competing in the U15 National Championships in Melbourne. Both boys play with local clubs; Tom with Cobden U16 and U18 sides and Luke with the Camperdown seniors.

We wish both boys success in their efforts.
Mathematics Coordinator
Leanne Carpenter

Mathematics Challenge For Young Australians

The Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians is a problem solving task designed to encourage and foster:

- A greater interest in and awareness of the power of Mathematics.
- A desire to succeed in solving stimulating Mathematical Problems.
- A discovery of the joy of Problem Solving in Mathematics.
- The identification of talented young Australians.

We certainly do have some very talented young Australians in our classes. This was particularly evident in the way our students approached the Mathematics Challenge. All are to be commended for their dedication and willingness to have a go. Two students stood out as having high potential, they were Elizabeth Smart, who was placed in the 99th percentile and Kiara Williams, who was placed in the 95th percentile. Well done to all participants.

Wellbeing Report
Kerin Glennen

Welcome back to all for semester two, I hope everyone had an enjoyable break and has returned enthusiastic and prepared for an exciting semester. I am aware that several VCE teachers ran a number of classes over the holidays and I hope students took full advantage of these.

Is important that we remember those who in our community who are presently facing adversity in their lives, be it the death of a loved one, nursing a family member through an illness or other challenges that occur in day-to-day living. We keep these families in our prayers and thoughts.

Communication is such an important part of family and community, letting others know how we are feeling, giving directions or just saying words of encouragement to those around you. It is through communication with others we learn, receive and give directions and interact with those around us. Communication needs to be honest and on some occasions may lead to a difference of opinion but in the end participants need to feel that they have been heard.

Most parents have rules and expectations regarding their son / daughter and the use of alcohol. However enforcing these rules can be difficult when teenagers are attending a party or visiting friends. Families can have very different values and attitudes towards alcohol and this can make communication with other parents/ families difficult. However, in the interests of your teenager’s safety, it is very important to have good communication.

When hosting, or your son / daughter is attending a party, please consider the following:

Talk to your teenager: It helps to make sure your son/daughter know exactly what the boundaries are in relation to alcohol.

Is your teenage son / daughter attending a party? As the parent of a minor, you have a right to all information needed to decide whether or not to allow your child to attend.

Drop-off and arrange a pick-up time: Have this set before you drop off your son / daughter.

Get the name and phone number of a responsible adult who will be present at the party.

More information regarding communication with other parents and families and teenage drinking can be found on “Drug Education” (www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/ptrorams/drugeducation)

Resource: “Celebrating Safely”. Information for parents to help their children celebrate safely.

It is through having these conversations with your son / daughter that you further develop your bonds and keep communication occurring.

Middle School Information Day
Lachie Lee – Year 9/10 Coordinator

The Middle School information sessions will be held on Wednesday 30th July, 2008.

The Year 10 (2009) session will be held at O’Keeffe Campus, Noorat beginning at 10.00am. Westvic Employment Services will be in attendance to speak about school-based apprenticeships and VET courses.

The Year 9 (2009) session will be held in the Multi Purpose Area at McAuley Campus, Camperdown, at 2.00pm. At both sessions the students will receive information about subject selection, subject selection forms and their student Handbooks for 2009.

The sessions are held during the day to ensure that all students are in attendance and that they receive this important information. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend if possible.

Further queries please contact myself or Lisa Pope, the Curriculum Co-ordinator.
From the Director of RE & English
Margaret Leahy

Staff Retreat
On June 26th and 27th, the teaching staff of MRC participated in a retreat at the Jesuit retreat house, Anglecrest, in Anglesea. Fr. Christopher Gleeson SJ conducted the retreat which was aimed at further developing and deepening the spiritual understanding of our teaching vocation.

Fr Chris came highly recommended as a former principal of Xavier College Melbourne and St Ignatius College Riverview. He also had several years as Editor of “Madonna”, “Australian Catholics” and “Eureka Street” publications and is currently a member of Toowong Jesuit community in Brisbane.

As an experienced and skillful director, Fr. Chris was able to lead us in a number of reflective, educative and prayerful sessions which encouraged us to look beyond in order to grow in our life and work as teachers. We were encouraged to consider a broad range of cultural and spiritual aspects of our lives by means of PowerPoint images incorporating music, poetry, literature and fun! Staff enjoyed a meal at the Anglesea Golf Club on Thursday evening and while the weather was not fit for a swim, the views from Anglecrest and the opportunities for time in the surrounding seaside environment provided nourishment for the flagging end of term spirits.

We are indeed very fortunate to have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in such rich experiences and we thank all those who helped to bring the retreat together so well.

Here are a few photos from the Retreat

Fr. Chris Gleeson SJ

Annual MRC Oratory Competition
The MRC Oratory competition will be held at the College on July 30th at 7.30 pm. All friends and supporters as well as parents of the College community are warmly invited to join us for what is always a very entertaining evening. The students are busily putting the last touches to their speeches which will be delivered in class for judging. The finalists will present their speeches to the audience on the night. Do come and provide a great audience.

Year 10 Retreats
On Wednesday, August 6th, the Year 10 girls will begin their retreat at Araluen Lutheran Camp in Anglesea. The girls will stay overnight and on Thursday, the boys will arrive for a shared lunch after which the girls will return to Camperdown. The boys will begin their retreat on Thursday and return on Friday 8th August.
Year 8 Retreat

Michael Clements

The first day back to school for the year 8's this semester was very different from most. No classrooms, no computers. The location was the Noorat Recreation Reserve and the focus was on building healthy relationships. We started the day with activities which gave students the opportunity to interact with each other in a safe and positive environment. This was followed by a performance from the Flying Bookworm Company, which focused on issues surrounding bullying. The performance was very entertaining and with only two actors they managed to create over a dozen characters. Mercy students were also involved in the play, with some excellent acting talents on display. We finished the day with a variety of academic and physically based games. Students really enjoyed the fresh start to the semester and must be commended for their positive approach to the day. Well done to all in year 8. Lets have a fantastic second half of the year.

PAL Program

Vicki Askew-Thornton

This week the class of 9N was presented with their certificates of completion for the Peer Activity Leader (PAL) program. The PAL program involves teams of Yr 9 leaders organising and conducting group activities and games with Yr 5 & 6 students at St Pat’s, St Thomas’ and St Colman’s Primary schools. The program is designed to build on student's leadership skills, promote healthy physical activity amongst primary students, and enhance the ongoing transition process of young people from primary to secondary school. The 9N students are to be congratulated on completing the PAL program successfully. They met the challenges of the program with enthusiasm, enhancing their leadership and organisational skills throughout the 6 week period. Well done 9N!  [See photo of group opposite].

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP 2008

REMINDER

To parents who have a son/daughter participating in this trip in September.
The 3rd and final instalment of $210.00 is due to be paid by 31st July.
Please make sure payment is made on time.
Thankyou for your co-operation in this matter.

SRC REPORT - James Castles

STUDENT PROFILE

Name: Michael Harney
Nickname: Harnzy
Favourite Food: Roast lamb and vegies
Favourite Movie: Anchorman
Favourite Subject: Footy and sport
Cats or Dogs: Neither
Summer or Winter: Summer
Beef or Chicken: ooo, tough, probably chicken
AFL team: Collingwood
Best Holiday Spot: Port Douglas
One thing you couldn't live without: Playstation
If you could meet one person who would it be? Another tough one, probably Mick Malthouse
Along the track

Every Bush Afire With God

In many ways the late Pope John Paul II could have included among his many titles the accolade ‘Ecological Warrior’. He became a very forthright and ardent advocate of the urgent need for the care of our planet, for much greater sensitivity to the web of life. Pope Benedict appears to have taken up his mantle and continued the late Pope’s impassioned call to ‘ecological conversion’. That call came to mind during a recent address I heard against the setting aside of sacred sites or places. On face value, the advertised subject matter seemed to go so much against modern trends but, in reality, the talk should have been called something like the Earth as the Sacrament of God – rather than designating some sites as sacred, the speaker’s vision of the sacredness of all parts and places of creation was quite inspiring.

In some ways we are all a bit like Moses. When Moses sees the burning bush, his curiosity gets the better of him and he wanders over to get a closer look. Wouldn’t we all! A voice tells him to take off his shoes, for he is on holy ground. Curiosity is a great asset – it can arouse for a time wonder and awe, it can make us take a closer look. It can even enable us for a moment to appreciate and give thanks for the wonder of creation. But usually it lasts but a moment. In reality, all ground is holy! All creation is holy, all creation reveals something of the Creator. The words of the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning sum it up:

Earth’s crammed with heaven
and every common bush
affire with God;
but only he who sees takes off his shoes;
the rest sit round it
and pluck blackberries.

All creation, great and small, beautiful and what may appear even ugly is still ablaze with the glory of God. All too often we miss it. It is so easy to miss the beauty and wonder of creation – to travel the same paths each day and take for granted sunrises and sunsets, the trees, the valleys, the hills we see so often. Then again, it is also easy to rejoice and marvel at the beauty of creation and miss the wonder and awe of their Creator. Have we become desensitised? Do we need to make a special effort to take off our shoes? One reason may be that we have abandoned rituals and prayers that sensitised us to God’s presence. Do we still take time, for example to give thanks to God before we eat and drink, thus connecting food with its sacred origins? Do we take a moment to say thank you for the gifts from God which we are about to receive, for the company we share?

Do we still ensure that our homes, our place of refuge, shelter, love and care have been blessed? Do we give thanks for our work which so often depends on the resources of creation and which carries on or ‘prolongs’ God’s work of creation, as we read in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. While it is true that among our young people there is a much greater awareness of nature and the urgent need to care for our environment, do we help them to take that extra step – to see beyond the created to the Creator?

St Paul of the Cross, way back in the early 1800s gave some very timely advice:

Give yourself the rest you need. When you are walking alone, listen to the sermon preached to you by the flowers, the trees, the shrubs, the sky, the sun and whole world. Notice how they preach to you a sermon of praise of God and how they invite you to proclaim the greatness of the one who has given them being.

Give yourself the rest you need, he says. So often we define our lives by how busy we are, how much we have to do. True, there are times when there is so much to be done but that only highlights more and more the need to give ourselves the rest that we need. In the first story of Creation, God rested on the seventh day, not because there was nothing else to do but rather to highlight the need for rest, for time to re-create ourselves. Each week, the Jewish people observe Sabbath might we say ‘religiously’ – they stop work and so many of the things that distract them from once again discovering and appreciating the presence of God in their lives and in creation around them. We too need to ‘make holy our Sabbath day’, to take off our shoes – to give ourselves the rest that we need, to give ourselves the chance. In the words of the late Pope John Paul,

... to celebrate God’s presence in the world, recalling that “from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator” (Wisdom 13:5; cf. Romans 1:20). This is also praised in the Jewish tradition of the Hasidim: “Where I wander—you! Where I ponder—you! ... In every trend, at every end, only You, You again, always You!” (M. Buber, Tales of the Hasidim [Italian ed., Milan 1975, p. 256]). L’Osservatore Romano (24 January 2001)

So take off your shoes and give yourself the rest you need:

Regards
Jim Quilliman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td>RE [7N]</td>
<td>Research Assignment on Prayer Traditions of other faiths.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Text Response Task</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>MSO Assessment Task</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Info Tech</td>
<td>Word Processing Test</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wood &amp; Plastics</td>
<td>Safety Poster Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Practical book collection</td>
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**YEAR 7**

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td>RE, Maths</td>
<td>Outcome 1 – Assessment Equations Test</td>
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**YEAR 8**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td>SOSE, Science [8N]</td>
<td>Antarctica Project Test - Circulatory &amp; Respiratory Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td>RE, Maths</td>
<td></td>
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**YEAR 9**

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td>RE [9N], Maths [9A &amp; 9B], Maths [9N], Graphic Design, Science</td>
<td>Design of School Emblem and Shield Solving Linear Equations Test Linear Equations Chapter Test Google Design &amp; Supporting Statement Practical Write-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**YEAR 10**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td>English, Maths [Methods], PE, Outdoor Education, Graphics, Wood</td>
<td>Writing Folio Task Quadratic Equations Test Theory Application Task: Silent Enemies Assignment Learning Activity 2.6 Design Project Due Start Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td>RE, Maths [General], PE, Computer Applications</td>
<td>Emmaus Account Task Statistics Test Practical Skill Evaluation Desktop Publishing Assignment Due</td>
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**YEAR 11**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td>Maths [General], Biology [Unit 2], PE [Unit 2], Studio Art, Physics</td>
<td>Financial Arithmetic Test Test Topic Test Timeline Practical Write-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td>PE [Unit 2], Psychology [Unit 4], Outdoor Education [Unit 4]</td>
<td>Lab Report SAC Test – Memory SAC 4</td>
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**YEAR 12**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 w/e 1/8</td>
<td>Biology [Unit 4], Legal Studies</td>
<td>Test SAC – Court Hierarchy / Tribunals &amp; ADR</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 w/e 8/8</td>
<td>Maths [Specialist], Business Management, Outdoor Education [Unit 4], Legal Studies, Psychology [Unit 4]</td>
<td>Challenging Problem SAC SAC 4.1 (B) SAC 4 Visit from Charlie the Policeman SAC Test - Memory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:  w/e [Week Ending]
* Please note that changes may occur and students will be notified by subject teacher of any changes
RESTORING THE BALANCE: REFORMING AND REVIVING CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

This year, there are more than 185,000 students in nearly 500 Catholic schools across Victoria.

More than one in five Victorian students are taught in a Catholic school.

Catholic and non-government schools are an essential cornerstone of our education system and they cannot be neglected.

Catholic schools are funded by a mix of State and Federal Government grants, fees and donations.

The Catholic education sector relies heavily on Government funding to lessen the burden of tuition fees on parents and provide the highest quality education possible.

However, after eight years of a State Labor Government, Catholic schools are being starved of funding and they are struggling to meet expenses.

The Brumby Labor Government’s record

Victorian Catholic schools receive the lowest funding per student of any State.

As a result, parents of an average Victorian Catholic school student pay the highest fees of any State except South Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Per student income by source (2005) (Catholic primary &amp; secondary schools)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,063</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees Collected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income (including other income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants as % of Total Income</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2006)
Over the term of the Labor Government in Victoria, funding to Victorian Catholic schools has fallen to historic lows – from 17.4 per cent of income to just 15.1 per cent.

The Labor Government now provides the parents of Victorian Catholic school students with less support than ever before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding as a percentage of Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: National Catholic Education Commission, Annual Reports; National Report on Schooling in Australia 2006)

The erosion of Catholic School funding has had a significant impact on parents, students and families struggling with increasing petrol, grocery, housing and cost of living prices.

The failure to support non-government schools means there is more financial pressure on parents, less funding for students with disabilities and special needs and less funding for school maintenance and capital works.

This pressure has been exposed by the recent Enterprise Bargaining Agreement with Government school teachers, which will require Catholic schools to find funds to match the Government school teachers’ salary increases.

John Brumby has failed to guarantee funding to Catholic schools to meet these salary increases.

Instead, there has been a decline in support from the State Government for Catholic schools, leaving parents, families and students to pick up the increasing shortfall.

**The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition will restore the balance for Catholic education funding**

A Victorian Coalition Government will restore the funding which has been stripped from Catholic schools.

The Victorian Coalition knows the best education for all students is achieved when all schools – government and non-government – are properly resourced and valued.

The Victorian Coalition is committed to restoring choice and diversity, and addressing the imbalance between the Catholic system and the government school system that has become entrenched by under-funding.

Funding will be directed towards improving the education of students in the Catholic school system, particularly in needy schools and for disabled students.
At a time when petrol and grocery prices are increasing, housing costs are going up and everyday life is becoming more expensive, the Victorian Coalition knows that costs like school fees are becoming a greater burden.

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition will reduce the burden on families who choose to send their children to a Catholic school.

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will:

- commit to restoring the funding that has been stripped from Catholic schools;
- increase State Government grants to Catholic schools, using a needs based formula, to around 25 per cent of the cost of educating a government school student; and
- invest $394 million over four years in Victorian Catholic schools to ensure a strong and diverse education system, and support parents' choice.

This funding will enable Catholic schools to:

- Provide funding to ensure that Catholic school teachers are paid in line with the recent Enterprise Bargaining Agreement with Government school teachers,
- Increase funding for disabled students in Catholic schools, who currently receive just one third of the funding for a disabled student in a Government school,
- Provide increased funding for needy Catholic schools in disadvantaged and low socio-economic areas,
- Invest in capital works and maintenance funding for Catholic schools to repair existing classrooms and improve facilities,
- Enable needy Catholic schools to have the same internet access and bandwidth as government schools,
- Support Catholic schools for the cost of complying with State Government accountability requirements, and boost teacher and principal professional development.

July 2008

<table>
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<th>Cost ($ million)</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
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<td>90.0</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>101.2</td>
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From the Director of Learning and Teaching
Mrs. Lisa Pope

CAREERS REPORT

JMC ACADEMY - Open Day - Saturday 16th August 10.30am - 1.30pm
Learn about the rapidly growing opportunities in the $11.1 billion Creative Industries. Join in for a showcase of student work, live performances and academic overviews from the following JMC Academy Courses:
Diplomas / Associate Degrees / Degrees
- Audio Engineering & sound Production
- Digital Film & television Production
- Digital Media & 3D Animation
- Popular Music & Performance
- Entertainment Business Management.

JMC Academy Showcase & Matinee Performance
On Tuesday, 18th November the JMC Academy's Annual Student Showcase will take place. The Showcase is an annual event and offers a unique opportunity to experience the true essence of the JMC Academy student experience and the diverse range of career opportunities offered at JMC. Bookings are essential and close on 3rd October. Visit melbourne@jmc.edu.au. For more information please visit: www.jmcacademy.edu.au. Scholarships are now open for 2009 for the Melbourne and Sydney Campus only. Visit the website www.jmcacademy.edu.au to download an information booklet and application form.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

ICT and Careers Expo 2008 - Saturday, 2nd August at Melbourne High School 10.00am – 4.00pm. Get your free tickets online at www.ictweek.vitta.org.au

Open day - Sunday, 17th August 2008.
The University is offering subsidised rail travel for students to attend open day. V/Line Tickets will be provided at a flat rate of $10.00 each and are only available if pre-ordered by Friday, 25th July 2008.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
Students can download programs about open days from www.latrobe.edu.au/openday or phone Rebecca Gleghorn on 9479 1037. For detailed information on LaTrobe's undergraduate scholarships program for 2009 please visit www.latrobe.edu.au/scholarships. Applications open in August and close in October 2008. Further information is available from Mrs Pope on the Health Sciences undergraduate programs for 2009, Nursing and Midwifery undergraduate programs 2009 and the 2009 Pathways to study at LaTrobe. Students can view a DVD on the Bachelor of Business (Sport and Leisure Management) from the website at: www.latrobe.edu.au/tourism/sport-video.

MONASH UNIVERSITY
Time to explore. Time to discover. Time to check out of the biggest course ranges in Australia. See dates and times below. Visit www.monash.edu/openday or call 1800 MONASH

UPCOMING CAREER DAYS:
* Brighton Bay Art Design & Photography Program (Sunday 27th July 10am - 4pm). www.brightonbay.net
* Monash University Open Day - Berwick, Gippsland, Parkville, Peninsula (2nd August 10am - 4pm)
  Caulfield and Clayton (Sunday, 3rd August from 10.00am - 4.00pm)
* ICT & Careers Expo @ Melbourne High School (August 2nd) - visit www.ictweek.vitta.org.au
* Grenadi School of Design Open Day (Sunday 3rd August) - visit www.grenadi.com.au
* Monash University Open Day - Caulfield and Clayton Campus (3rd August 10am - 4pm)
  Berwick, Gippsland, Parkville & Peninsula Campuses (Saturday, 2nd August from 10.00am – 4.00pm)
* Deakin University Geelong Campus Open Day (Sunday 10th August)
* LaTrobe University Open Day: Bendigo (3rd August), Mildura and Shepparton (10th August), Bundoora (31st August)
* RMIT Open Day Brunswick, Bundoora and City Campuses (Sunday 10th August 10am - 4pm)
* Victoria University Open Day Footscray (10th August), www.vu.edu.au/openday
* William Angliss Institute Open Day (10th August 10am -4pm)
* Academy of Interactive Entertainment Open Day (Wednesday 13th August 1pm - 6.30pm) - www.aie.edu.au
* JMC Academy Saturday 16th August - 10.30am – 1.30pm
* Holmesglen Open Day (Saturday 16th August 10am - 3pm)
* ACU Open Day Melbourne Campus (Sunday 17th August)
* University of Melbourne Open Day Parkville Campus (Sunday 17th August 10am - 4pm)
* Deakin University Warrnambool Campus Open Day (Sunday 17th August)
* Photography Studies College Open Day (August 17th 10am - 4pm) - www.psc.edu.au
* Deakin University Bundoora Campus Open Day (Sunday 24th August)
* LaTrobe University Open Day Wodonga (24th August)
* Melbourne School of Fashion Open Day (Sunday 24th August) - www.melbourneschooloffashion.com
* University of Melbourne Open Day Dookie Campus (Sunday 31st August 10am -2pm)
* ACU Open Day Ballarat Campus (Sunday 31st August)
* LaTrobe University Open Day Bundoora (31st August)
* University of Ballarat Open Day (Sunday 31st August 10am - 3pm) www.ballarat.edu.au/openday

For more information, please feel free to email the Careers teacher on info@mercy.vic.edu.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OPEN DATES, APPLICATION FORMS PLEASE SEE MRS LI SA POPE

Curriculum Report

Staff Professional Development Day
The first day of term saw the Mercy staff work with Mrs Anne Doody; the Secondary Curriculum adviser from the Catholic Education office. The staff spent the morning discussing the key skills and knowledge we hope our students leave MRC with, in terms of preparing them for their futures. This discussion then enabled us to identify the key skills and knowledge that were prevalent in all group discussions and use this information to help us audit our curriculum to ensure that we are able to make this knowledge and skills a greater focus in curriculum planning. Later in the afternoon the staff reviewed the Principles of Learning and Teaching (POLT) and discussed ways in which we can ensure that we are able to model ‘effective teaching practices’. The curriculum team will now draw up a three year action plan on the POLT and make these a focus for our teaching.

Year 10 Subject Selections for VCE and Interview Process
Over the holidays all Year 10 students should have received a copy of the VCE Blocks for 2009. These blocks have been created by student demand and we have looked carefully at all data before finalising these selections. Each Year Ten student has been given the opportunity to discuss their career options with one of our teaching staff to ensure they are choosing subjects that enable them to complete future studies. The interview times and dates were also included in the subject selection envelope. If you did not receive a copy of the either form please feel free to ring the office and we will ensure your son or daughter receive another copy.
If parents would like to attend the interview and feel they cannot make the time they have been given please ring the office as there will be some afterschool appointments made available on the Wednesday 6th of August.

Key Dates for Year Tens
Year 10 Boys subject selection interview dates: Wednesday 6th of August
Year 10 Boys subject selection interview dates: Friday 8th August
All Blocking sheets returned by: Wednesday August 13th 2006

Year 8 and 9 Subject Selections for 2009
The Year 8 and 9 Subject Selection Day and Overview will occur during the school day on Wednesday 30th of July. An overview of their subject selections will be presented to them as well as a Handbook with an outline of each subject. Whilst it is not necessary for parents to attend these information sessions, they are more than welcome. The Year 9 subject selections for entering Year 10 in 2009 will occur at 10.00pm on Wednesday the 30th of July at the O'Keeffe Campus. The Year 8 into Year 9 subject selection overview will occur in the afternoon starting at 2.00pm in the Multi Purpose Area. The students will receive a subject selection form on this day which forms must be returned to the office by Friday 15th of August.

VCE Mentor Reports
Once again the Year 12 students will be receiving four weekly progress reports. The Dates for mailing of these VCE Progress/Mentor reports will be as following:
Round 1: Friday 15th of August  Round 2: Friday 12th of September  Round 3: Friday 24th of October

Year 7 -11 Interim Reports
Interim reports will be mailed out at the end of term; these reports will be followed up with Parent Teacher Interviews on Wednesday 15th of October.
WARRNAMBOOL AND HAMILTON CAMPUSES

OPEN DAY 2009

Now there’s a way you can study years 11 and 12 and start your apprenticeship all at the same time.

Australian School-based Apprenticeships available in automotive, hospitality, building and engineering. Allied trades are also available.

Find out how you can ‘earn while you learn’ at the Australian Technical College - Wannon Open Day on Thursday 14th of August at our Warrnambool Campus and Tuesday 19th of August at our Hamilton Campus. Information sessions held at 10.30am - 12.00pm and 12.45pm - 2.15pm. Parents welcome.

To register your interest, phone (03) 5564 0444 or check out www.atcw.edu.au today!
Are you trying to decide on a career?

We invite all Year 7-12 students and parents to

CAREERS INFO . . . AT CALL!

A Careers Information Evening for the Camperdown, Mercy, Timboon, Hampden and Cobden school communities

on Wednesday 30th July (Week 3, Term 3)
   @ Mortlake College
   6.30pm – 8.30pm

And also on

Wednesday 13th August (Week 5, Term 3)
   @ Cobden Technical School
   6.30pm – 8.30pm

Speakers will be presenting from the following industries:
* Environment
* Veterinarian
* Forestry
* Local Government
* Hospitality & Tourism
* Trades
* Accounting & Agribusiness
* Health and Disability Services
* Engineering
* Nursing
* Agriculture
* Police
* Graphics
* Sport
* Retail
* Education

Plus speakers from Deakin University and South West Institute of TAFE

You select the careers you want to know more about. It’s never too early!
More information about “Careers Info . . . at Call” will be given to students at all three schools in the second week of Term 3

All inquiries to your School’s Careers Teacher,
Kelvin White (Local Community Partnerships) Contact: 0429 921 876
Alistair McCosh (Regional Industry Careers Advisor) Contact: 0427 947 256
My Future...What does it really cost??

Going on to University or TAFE after secondary school expands your world and gives you skills to give you greater future career options. If you have a qualification from a University or a TAFE you will more than likely have more choices in employment and have higher than average starting salaries. However, there is a lot of recent evidence to show that Regional students are choosing not to go on to further study after secondary school. The cost of studying, particularly if you have to leave home to go on to further study is seen as a major block for many students and their families. The information session, ‘My Future...What does it really cost? will give both parents and students a guide to what those costs might be and more importantly will give you good down to earth information on how to offset and/or minimise those costs. Some of the issues to be covered on the night will be:

- How much does it really cost to go on to University or TAFE after secondary school?
- What is HECS-HELP and how do I pay?
- What benefits can I get from Centrelink including Youth Allowance, Rental Assistance, Health Care Card etc and how much would I be likely to get?
- Is Youth Allowance enough to live on?
- Where will I live and what will it cost?
- How much will I spend on books, the internet and in general day to day living?
- How easy is it to get a part time job?
- What sort of help is there when I am at University or TAFE?

My Future...What does it really cost? will be presented by Vince Callaghan. Vince is a member of the South West LLEN and has presented workshops like these for many years. Vince was the spokesperson on the Student Financial Issues for the Australian and New Zealand student services Association and has presented submissions on a Sate and Federal level over many years. The information session will be extremely beneficial for both parents and students. So get along to the Warrnambool PAC on Wednesday August 6th at 7.30pm for a free and informative session on the ‘need to know costs’ of further education. To RSVP or get more information call Sophie at South West LLEN on 5561 0047 or email reception@swllen.net.au

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Graffiti is a crime. Don't pay the price.

The Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 commenced on 17 April 2008. A restriction on the sale of spray paint cans will commence on 30 June 2008. The Act creates specific graffiti offences and penalties, including:

- Marking publicly visible graffiti, or offensive graffiti, on private property without the owner’s consent – up to 2 years prison and a fine of up to $26,428.80.
- Possessing, without lawful excuse, a spray paint can while on or adjacent to public transport property or infrastructure, or where the person is trespassing on private property – a fine of up to $2,753 or a $550 on the spot fine.
- Possessing a graffiti implement with the intention of marking graffiti – a fine of up to $2,753.
- Advertising a spray paint can for sale, if the advertisement is likely and intended to incite or promote unlawful graffiti – a fine of up to $5,506.

Spray paint cans sales restriction.

From 30 June 2008, anyone under 18 years of age wishing to purchase spray paint cans must show proof (a letter or a statutory declaration from their employer) that they need the cans for work purposes. Retailers and their employees may request photo ID for proof of age.

- Selling a spray paint can to anyone under 18 years of age other than in circumstances where the person can demonstrate that they need the paint for employment purposes – a fine of up to $2,202 or a $220 on the spot fine.

Police search powers.

Under the Act, police have the power (without a warrant) to search a person on or near public transport or public transport infrastructure, or while they are trespassing on private property. If they reasonably suspect that person is in possession of a spray paint can. Special search procedures apply to anyone aged from 14 to 17. This involves a pat-down search over a person’s outer clothing and the search of that outer clothing, which must be removed at the request of a police officer. An officer can also conduct a pat-down search of a person’s next layer of clothing as well as their shoes and headgear. Police can search the exterior and interior of a car, bag or package. Anyone under 14 years of age cannot be searched for graffiti implements.

Further information about the Act and the Victorian Government's graffiti management strategy is available online at: justice.vic.gov.au/graffiti

*Fines are indexed annually on 1 July in-line with the Consumer Price Index.

Funded by the

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Place
5593 1892

Talk
Healthy
With Hafey

He's an AFL Legend with plenty of stories to tell and he also cares passionately about Men's Health, and Well-being. Who better to have as Special Guest Speaker at our Men's Health Night?

Dr. Brendan Corden will share some interesting health information before we kick back for an entertaining talk from the great Tom Hafey.

WARNING
TOUGH NEW
GRAFFITI
LAWS ARE
NOW IN
PLACE.

A Victorian Government Initiative
2009 Apprenticeships
Gain great experience and nationally recognised qualifications while working for a strong and reliable business that will support you every step of the way.

Apply now for CitiPower and Powercor's 2009 Apprentice and Trainee Intake. We are currently recruiting for the following roles:
- Apprentice Powerline Worker
- Apprentice Electrical Fitter
- Apprentice Meter Technician
- Trainee Electrical Tester
- Trainee Technical Officer (Design)

Employment begins between mid-January and early February 2009 and positions are based in 13 offices and depots across Victoria.

To lodge an application, visit the Careers section of our website www.powercor.com.au or www.citipower.com.au before the closing date of Friday 1 August 2008.

CitiPower and Powercor are equal opportunity employers.

Strong and reliable

2009 Technical Traineeships
Gain great experience and nationally recognised qualifications while working for a strong and reliable business that will support you every step of the way.

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