ISSUE 3-2

8th August, 2008

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
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Examination Results
Each of the Year 12 students have received their first round of results on Monday in the studies of Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology. These results will give an indication of the student’s work ethic during Semester One. Irrespective of the result, there still exists improvement which is attainable by all our Year 12 students. There is no substitute for diligence, positive attitude and sheer hard work.

Congratulations
Congratulations are extended to our football team who defeated Timboon P-12 College on Wednesday 23rd July. The scoreboard reflected a convincing win with MRC 15-5-96 defeating Timboon 0-2-2. Congratulations to the team!

Matilda Anders and Jahd Anderson have returned from their recent athletics tour to Canada. Matilda achieved two silver medals in the 100m and 200m finals and gained a 4th placing in long jump. Jahd was awarded six medals over two Athletic meets. In total, Jahd received a gold medal for triple and long jump, a silver medal for high and triple jump and a bronze medal for high jump and 200m final.

Congratulations are also extended to Bridget Glennen who has been accepted into the STS High School Foundation Exchange Program for 2009. Bridget will be an exchange student in Canada for the school semester program beginning in January 2009. Well done Bridget!

Last Tuesday Roseleen Lenehan was awarded a coveted Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Education Award. The Award was one of just 22 presented to ADFA applicants across Victoria and recognizes outstanding academic, sporting and leadership achievements. Upon finishing Year 12 Roseleen will enter the ADFA, combining a three-year science degree with military training and leadership activities. The award was presented to Roseleen by Lt Adam Simeoni who represented the Defence forces. Congratulations Roseleen on an outstanding achievement!

Congratulations to Matilda and Jahd!
Uniform
The College has decided that from 1st November 2008 it will operate its own Uniform Shop. The Uniform Shop will stock all the school uniform items including the new school shirt for boys and the new school blouse for girls. The Uniform Shop will operate on a weekly basis with extended trading hours at the beginning of each school year, at the time the uniform changes from summer to winter and vice-versa and at the Year 7 Orientation Day. The uniform shop will be located at the McAuley Campus, however orders will be delivered to the O’Keeffe Campus. It is anticipated that supply problems experienced by some families from time to time, will now be overcome. The commission received from all sales will be reinvested directly back into the College capital works program.

Our current suppliers have been notified of this change and the College will purchase any stock not sold at the end of October. Detailed trading hours will be released at a later date.

The new school shirt for boys and blouse for girls will be available from November 1st and a phase out period of 18 months will exist for the current green shirts.

Reflection
As a staff, this week, we reflected briefly on the life at St John Vianney (1786-1859). His feast day was celebrated on Monday 4th August. I provided this for your reflection during the coming week.

St John Vianney had trouble becoming a priest. Not only did his family struggle to pay for even his elementary schooling but, once he got to the seminary he had difficulty passing exams. Learning Latin, which was required in those days, was a special burden, but John proved that it is not always the most academic who are the most wise. His bishop decided to ordain him, despite his lack of learning and thus began, in a small village in France, a remarkable ministry based on insightfulness into people's characters and homely good advice.

As John's reputation spread, people came from far and wide to seek his advice in the confessional. At that time, railway was spreading across France and this meant that troubled people were able to travel to him: for years, he spent twelve hours in the confessional every day in winter and sixteen every day in summer. Visitors waited days for their turn to speak with him. It would be interesting to know what he said, although most of the time he didn't say much. He was a listener. He had the rare gift of being able to let God do the talking. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is still, for many, a place for intimate encounters with God, a place where people can exchange their burden for freedom and peace.

"O my God, come to me, so that you may dwell in me and I may dwell in you
- St John Vianney

At the end of this week not only do we celebrate the commencement of the Beijing Olympics but we also celebrate the feast of the first Australian to be beatified, Blessed Mary MacKillop.

Mary MacKillop has always been a figure that both religious and non-religious Australians have been able to relate to. Her parents were separated, her health was often poor, she made friends regardless of their personal beliefs and she was misunderstood by those higher than her in the church even to the point, at one stage, of being wrongfully excommunicated. Above all else, she was a realist. She was impatient with members of the order she founded who claimed to move on a higher spiritual plane because they had 'visions'. For her, the Kingdom of God was something you worked for and the work was often tough. By the same token, the real world in which she lived was a place in which she experienced hope.

It was this hope that enabled her, in 1865, on urging of her spiritual director, to move to a small town and start a school for those whose educational opportunities were limited. Such schools, scattered far and wide, became a familiar part of the work of her Sisters of St Joseph and an icon of the church in Australia. Secular Australia has ample cause to be grateful to her. For the Christian community, the debt is even greater. Her life and work helped to transplant the message of Jesus to a new country and make it feel at home here. She trusted God even when there was plenty to worry about. She never gave up.

"Do what you can with the means at your disposal and leave all the rest calmly to God" – Blessed Mary MacKillop, 1888

Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on Pg 12, a reflection titled “Along the Track” written by Jim Quillinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. Jim's reflection this week is titled “Making God in Our Own Image and Likeness”. I hope you enjoy this reading.

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL
Coming Events

TERM 3
Week 6
Monday 18th August
- Mid Term Break (no classes)
- Outdoor Education Snow Camp commences
- Science Week commences

Wednesday 20th August
- Yr 7 2009 Enrolment Interviews 1:30pm – 5:30pm

Thursday 21st August
- Outdoor Education Snow Camp commences

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

Week 7
Wednesday 27th August
- Central Australia Trip meeting – 7.30pm McAuley Campus

Week 8
Monday 1st September
- PTFA Meeting – 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus

Week 10
Wednesday 17th September
- Year 12 Trial English Exam

Friday 19th September
- Term 3 concludes at 2.10pm

School Holidays
Monday 22nd September
- Central Australia Trip commences

Wednesday 1st October
- Central Australia Trip concludes

TERM 4
Week 1
Monday 6th October
- Term 4 commences for all students

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Johanna Glennen for consistent application to her studies.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Ebony Boyd for her enthusiastic commitment to her studies.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Rachel Gibson and Zach O’Flynn for their fantastic effort at this year’s Oratory Competition.

PAL Program
Vicki Askew-Thornton

This week the Year 9B class had their first PAL session with Grade 4 St Pat's students. Here are a couple of photos.
The technology center has been a very busy place over the last term and the start of this term with the students finishing some great projects in years 7, 8, 9, and 10. This semester, the year 12 students are in full flight working really hard on their projects and folios as they have to be completed by the end of term. The year 11 students are also working hard to complete all their requirements before the end of the year. This semester, the year 7 students are working with plastic, as well as wood, to give them all necessary skills they need to continue wood in year 8. The year 8 students are working on their set projects which should look great when finished. The year 9 students are currently designing some coffee tables. Each must have a different design and will be finished to a very high standard. The year 10 students are able to design and make their own project, within reason. The Art and technology evening is once again taking place and should be a great evening for everyone to come along and see what our fantastic students are achieving at school.

**Wellbeing Report**
*Kerin Glennen*

**Sleeping, Study, Teenagers and School**
The message has been clear throughout the ages "Early to bed early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." Now there's proof! Australian and overseas researchers are finding definite links between a good night's sleep and learning.

This relationship between rest and school success, which can seem so obvious to parents struggling to make sense of their teenagers' chaotic sleep patterns, is apparent from the day the child first walks through the school gates and growing evidence points to thisa study of children starting school, Jon Quach, a Ph D student at the Centre for Community Child Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, found that the more severe the sleep problem, the worse the child's health, behaviour and learning. Ongoing study concluded that a child who has sleep problems is poorer in his / her communication skills, language and literacy and mathematical thinking.

A teenager's natural tendency to stay up late, combined with the need for a minimum of nine hours sleep, each night, compared with an average of eight for adults, results in significant sleep debt, affecting their mood and day-time functioning. By the end of a week, the average teenager has accrued a sleep debt of four to five hours. Combine this with the desire to socialise at the weekend and the need to catch up on homework and it becomes clear that surly, grumpy teenage syndrome is a biological, rather than a social problem.

Studies on sleep and memory by Robert Stickgold, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, have shown the importance of sleep in learning and memory. He found that some forms of memory consolidation are absolutely dependent on post-training sleep. In other words, those who study and have an early night will do much better than those who stay up all night studying.

**Some Better sleep tips for teenagers:**
- The bedroom is just that, **NO televisions, NO computer**. It is a room for sleep.
- Aim for 8.5 to 9.5 hours sleep an evening
- Develop a soothing pre-sleep routine to train your body into relaxing
- **Turn off mobile phones and internet.**
- Avoid bright lights.

**In the morning:**
- Get up open the blinds and face the day.

If you wish to know more on teenagers and sleeping go to swinburne.edu.au/lss/psychology/pc/

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**SRC REPORT - James Castles**

**STUDENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Ebony Boyd  
**Nickname:** Eb, Boydy  
**Favourite Food:** Ice cream  
**Favourite Movie:** Ps I love you and Dodgeball  
**Favourite Subject:** PE, English  
**Cats or Dogs:** Either  
**Summer or Winter:** Summer  
**Beef or Chicken:** Chicken  
**AFL team:** Geelong  
**Best Holiday Spot:** Merimbula  
**One thing you couldn’t live without:** My friends  
**If you could meet one person who would it be?** Susie O'Neill
State Netball Championships
On Monday, 4th of August, three Mercy Netball teams competed in the State Netball Championships in Melbourne. The girls have given up a number of lunchtimes to train and prepare for the competition. The very early start did not affect the girls ability to play up to seven, fourteen minute games for the day. The Schools we competed against were as follows; Kilbreda College, Portland Secondary College, Firbank Grammar, Port Fairy, Clonard College, McKillop College, Mary McKillop CRC, Our lady of Sion, St Michael’s Grammar, Eumemmerring College, Carey Baptist and Woodleigh School.

Our Senior team were successful in winning all of their games comfortably, to finish on top for the day. The Intermediate team finished third overall and our Junior side finished fifth. The day is a great experience for the girls and they are to be commended for their efforts in representing our school.

The Senior team will compete in a finals day on Tuesday the 2nd of September and we wish them all the best in their endeavour for top State Secondary School title.

The teams were as follows -

**Junior:** Jocelyn McDonald, Sharni Moloney, Ellie Kenna, Lucy O’Connor, Meagan Carlin, Caitlyn McVilly, Grace Lee, Darci Green, Emily Field

**Intermediate:** Lauren Carlin, Megan Bullen, Rebecca Van Den Eynde, Anatashia Walsh, Ash Ludeman, Jordan Clarke, Amy Henry, Alex Harry, Georgie Gill, Lauren Field, Jess Baxter

**Senior:** Elise Howard, Jessie Meade, Johanna Glennon, Mel Jones, Stacey Hall, Georgia Muir, Peta Bourke, Nadia Moloney, Molly Bradshaw.

A huge thank-you to Junior coach, Simone Moloney, Intermediate coach Rebecca Rees, Senior coach Loretto Milbourne and student teacher, Caitlyn Oaks. Also, thank-you to the parents who assisted on the day, Yolanda McVilly, Janet O’Connor, Linda Kenna, Kerry Howard, Diane Meade, Leanne Field, and Nick Moloney.

PUBLIC NOTICES

*...MURRAY FRY AMCAL PRESENTS...*

**DR. LEWINN’S GIRLS NIGHT IN**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH AUGUST**

6.15PM

Come and learn about Dr.Lewinn’s products in a fun and casual environment with a hands on approach

$15.00 BOOKING FEE; redeemable on any Dr.Lewinn’s products purchased on the night

**BOOK NOW!**
Ph: 55 931152
315 MANIFOLD ST, CAMPERDOWN

*LIMITED SEATS*

**SUPER SPECIALS ON THE NIGHT!!!**

*"SYNERGY YOUTH” COLAC*
Will be in Camperdown for a Youth Night
9th August @ the Guide Hall 7pm-9pm
This is for children from Grade 6 to Year 10
Games, Music and more
Any queries contact Sharon 5595 4207
From the Director of English  
Margaret Leahy

MRC Oratory Competition

The 21st Annual MRC Oratory Competition was held at the college on Wednesday 30th August. The MRC Oratory is one of the key events in the curriculum calendar of the college. The contestants are chosen from their own English classes so they had in fact been through the process of speaking in front of a group of their peers and assessed, as part of their English course work. The students who spoke on Wednesday night were nothing short of outstanding. They were funny, entertaining, wise beyond their years and thought provoking. Those of us who attended felt privileged to be there to hear such wonderful presentations. Many parents and staff have spoken to me since the night to express their sense of enjoyment of each of the speakers. Some students who did well but did not get to the finals are being encouraged to go to some of the local centres such as Sunnyside and Merinda Lodge to give their speeches to the residents. This is a most rewarding experience for both the students and their listeners.

The competitors for the night were:

Junior:
Zachary O’Flynn, Rachael Gibson, Eliza Whiting, Elizabeth Smart, Becky Buchholz, Rachael Harney.

Middle:
Thomas Skene, Jack McKenzie, Bridget Glennen, Ebony Boyd, Tom O’Loughlin,

Senior:
Jacqui Heffernan

The winners were:
Elizabeth Smart, Thomas Skene and Jacqui Heffernan

Highly Commended were:
Eliza Whiting and Jack McKenzie.

Adjudicators Mrs. Jenny Phillips & Rev. Peter Mather
### Assessment Planner 2008
#### Semester 2 / Term 3

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<th><strong>Week</strong></th>
<th><strong>Subject</strong></th>
<th><strong>Assessment Item</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 w/e 15/8</td>
<td>Maths [7A &amp; 7B]</td>
<td>Length &amp; Perimeter Test</td>
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<td>Maths [7N]</td>
<td>Patterns &amp; Algebra Test</td>
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<td>LOTE – Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Workbook Project</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Mammal Poster</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 w/e 22/8</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Text Response Essay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maths [7N]</td>
<td>Algebra Project</td>
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<td>Home Eco</td>
<td>Folio</td>
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### YEAR 8

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<td>5 w/e 15/8</td>
<td>LOTE – Cultural Studies</td>
<td>Workbook Project</td>
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<td>Info Tech</td>
<td>Database Test 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science [8N]</td>
<td>Practical Report - Matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 w/e 22/8</td>
<td>RE</td>
<td>Outcome 2 - Compare and contrast different religions.</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Media Task</td>
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### YEAR 9

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<tr>
<td>5 w/e 15/8</td>
<td>RE</td>
<td>Report – Sisters of Mercy at Work</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Writing Folio Task</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maths [9A &amp; 9B]</td>
<td>Linear Graphs Test</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Essay Task: in class time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Table Design due</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>6 w/e 22/8</td>
<td>Maths [9N]</td>
<td>Measurement Chapter Test</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<td>Food Tech</td>
<td>Design Folio</td>
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### YEAR 10

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<tr>
<td>5 w/e 15/8</td>
<td>Maths [Methods]</td>
<td>Quadratic Graphs Test</td>
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<td>Art / Photography</td>
<td>Shoot 1 – Nature with Human Impact</td>
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<td>Outdoor Education</td>
<td>Skiing Fitness Program</td>
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<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Folio</td>
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<td>Food</td>
<td>Folio</td>
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<td>6 w/e 22/8</td>
<td>RE</td>
<td>Report Task – “A Catholic Funeral”</td>
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<td>Maths [General]</td>
<td>Simultaneous Equations WS</td>
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<td>Outdoor Education</td>
<td>Ski Trip @ Mt Buller</td>
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### YEAR 11

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<td>RE</td>
<td>Outcome 1 – Film Response</td>
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<td>Studio Art</td>
<td>Journal</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
<td>Rocket Launch</td>
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<td>6 w/e 22/8</td>
<td>Biology [Unit 2]</td>
<td>Assignment – Regulation</td>
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<td>Australian History [Unit 4]</td>
<td>Outcome 2: SAC 1 Project Essay – First World War</td>
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<td>PE [Unit 2]</td>
<td>Topic Test</td>
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<td>Outdoor Education [Unit 4]</td>
<td>SAC 5</td>
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### YEAR 12

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<td>Maths [Methods]</td>
<td>Integration SAC</td>
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<td>Maths [Further]</td>
<td>Financial Maths SAC</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
<td>SAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 w/e 22/8</td>
<td>Biology [Unit 4]</td>
<td>Test / SAC Pracs Due</td>
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<td>PE [Unit 4]</td>
<td>SAC 7</td>
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<td>Business Management</td>
<td>SAC 4.1 (C)</td>
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<td>Outdoor Education [Unit 4]</td>
<td>SAC 5</td>
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<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>SAC (2A) – Criminal Trial Procedures</td>
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<td>Australian History [Unit 4]</td>
<td>Outcome 2 SAC 1 Project Essay: First World War</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design Tech</td>
<td>Complete last SAC Unit 4 SAC 1</td>
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**Legend:** w/e [Week Ending]
* Please note that changes may occur and students will be notified by subject teacher of any changes.
**Sports Report**  
**Darren Cheeseman**

**Senior Football**  
On the Thursday, 24th July, the Mercy Regional College Senior Football team played Timboon College at the Leura Oval. The boys played a good brand of football in perfect conditions.

The team will now play the winner of Warrnambool College and Trinity College at a date to be confirmed.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Timboon P-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 – 2 – 50</td>
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<td>13 – 5 – 83</td>
<td>0 – 1 – 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 – 5 – 96</td>
<td>0 – 2 - 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Goalkickers: Alex McGaughie 4, Steve O’Connor 3, Jarrod Blain 2, Jacob Gaut 2, Bernard McLeod 1, Sam Moloney 1, Patrick Moloney 1 and Jacob Meade 1.

Best Players for Mercy - Sam Moloney, Jacob Gaut, Chris Baxter, Steve O’Connor, James Gill and Marty Sargeant

**Athletics**  
Congratulations to both Matilda Anders and Jahd Anderson who travelled to Canada to compete in two Athletic Carnivals. These were held at Vancouver and Kelowna. Both students performed strongly in their events and were able to receive some specialized coaching and training.

This experience was fantastic for these two students to be involved in and we look forward to their participation at the Catholic All Schools, at Olympic Park, in September.

**Netball**  
Well done to the three netball teams that competed in Melbourne this week. The senior team won on the day meaning they will be invited back to Melbourne to compete in the finals. The Intermediate finished third and the Junior team finished. Well done to all students who participated and a big thank-you to Melanie Kavanagh for co-ordinating the netball and to all the coaches who did such a great job.

**Curriculum Report**  
**Lisa Pope**

**VCE Subject Selections for 2009**  
This week has seen the subject selection interviews for students entering Year 11 in 2009. These interviews enable parents, students and teachers to talk about their son/daughter’s future and the options that are available to them.

All Year 11 2009 subject-selection sheets are to be submitted to the college office by Wednesday, 13th August.

Confirmation of enrolment into subjects will be released shortly after all selections sheets have been submitted. Students will be expected to partake in the transition program’s later in the year, to enable staff to thoroughly prepare our students for the year ahead.

**Transition Dates are as follows:**

**Year 11 Transition** (into Year 12) begins Monday 17th November and ends on Thursday 20th November. Friday 21st of November all Year 11’s will be given a study day at home to prepare for their end of year exams.

**Year 10 Transition** (into Year 11) will be held on Monday 1st December, Tuesday 2nd December and Wednesday 3rd (up to period 5). After lunch they will sit their Year 10 English exam.

**Year 9 and 10 Subject Selections for 2009**  
Last week, Mr Lachie Lee presented the elective programs that will be offered to our students in Years 9 and 10 next year. All Year 8 and 9 students should have received a subject-selection sheet and handbook describing the units of study for next year. Subject selection sheets need to be returned to the college office by Friday 15th of August. Confirmation of elective programs will be released to students late term 3.

**Year 7,8,9,10 and 11 End of Semester Exams**  
This year Mercy will be introducing end of year exams at Year 7 and 8 levels. The core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Humanities will be formally examined, to begin to develop our students’ skills in exam techniques. Year 9 students will also sit formal exams in core subjects, whilst Year 10 and 11 students will sit exams in all subject areas. The dates for exams are listed below.

**Year 7 and 8** - Tuesday 2nd and 3rd of December at the McAuley Campus stadium. O’Keeffe students will be bussed over on both days. These exams will be of one hour in duration.

**Year 9 Exams** - (English, Maths, Humanities, Health &PE, and Science Exams) will occur on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th of December. A timetable will be released early in term 4.

**Year 10 Exams** - The exams will begin on Wednesday 3rd of December Periods 6 and 7, Thursday 4th and Friday 5th for ALL Subjects except RE. The timetable for these exams will be released early term 4.

**Year 11 Exams** will occur in all subjects except RE and these exams will take place between Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th November.
CAREERS REPORT

RMIT UNIVERSITY - Visual Merchandising Open Week 10th - 13th August 2008
Visual merchandising is an exciting and varied career path that opens up many varied and interesting work opportunities for graduates. Careers in Exhibition and Event Design, Store Design, Photostyling, Retail Design, Propmaking, as well as Visual merchandising within retail environments will be on display. For more information please contact: Timothy McCarthy on 9925 4717 or timothy.mccarthy@rmit.edu.au

Victorian College of the Arts Open Day - Sunday 17th August 10.00 - 4.00. Visit vca.unimelb.edu.au for more information and session times for Dance, Drama, Production, Music performances and information sessions.

The National Theatre Drama School
Saturday 6th September from 2.00 - 4.00 and Sunday 21st September from 2.00 - 4.00. Staff from the National Drama School will run two Course Information sessions (incorporating free acting workshops) for those who want to know more about the professional training opportunities offered by the School's current accredited courses. For more information please contact the School Administrator on 9534 0223 or email to drama@nationaltheatre.org.au

Monash University - Open Day Saturday 2nd Aug 10.00am - 4.00pm - Berwick, Gippsland, Parkville & Peninsula campuses. Sunday 3rd Aug 10.00am - 4.00pm - Caulfield & Clayton campuses. For more info www.monash.edu/openday or 1800 MONASH. A DVD is also available from Mrs Pope on Monash Residential Services. Scholarships - www.adm.monash.edu/scholarships Applications close on 31st October, 2008.

Photography Studies College - Open Day - Sunday 7th Aug 10.00am - 4.00pm
For more information contact: 9682 3191 or info@psc.edu.au or www.psc.edu.au

For more info contact SWTAFE 5564 8911 or www.swtafe.vic.edu.au for session times and tour times for each campus.

University of Melbourne - Open Day - Sunday 17th Aug - 10.00am - 4.00pm
For more information phone 1800 801 662 or http://unimelb.cushelp.com. Scholarships - If you wish to pursue an undergraduate course at Australia's premier research and teaching university, the Melbourne Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework Scholarships Program provides great opportunities to join our vibrant and academically stimulating environment. Our webpage provides full up-to-date details of the program, information on how to apply, and the opening & closing dates for all undergraduate scholarship applications. For more information contact: The Melbourne Scholarships Office: 8344 7467 or www.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships.

University of Melbourne - Dookie Campus Open Day - Sunday 31st Aug - 10.00am - 2.00pm
Further info including the Open Day Program is available from www.dookie.unimelb.edu.au/openday or Ph 5833 9200.

University & RMIT Open Day Guides
Open Day guides for various Universities. have just arrived and are outside Mrs. Pope's office.

Apprentice Chef
If you are interested in becoming a chef please see Mr. Walsh you will be able to finish this years schooling before the apprenticeship starts.

Careers on Call Information Evening
The registration forms for the Careers On Call Information Session at Cobden Technical School on Wednesday 13th of August are due back ASAP. Please hand these forms into the office if you are interested in attending the session. There are also spare forms at the office if you are missed out on one!

Tertiary Residences for 2009
St Mary's has information and phone numbers for those looking at Universities in Melbourne. Please see Ms Davies.

Defence Force Recruiting
The Defence Force Recruiting team will be at Mercy Regional College on August 21st 2:00 to 2:45. Please give interested names or classes to Ms Davies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAREERS, DATES OR INFORMATION SESSIONS PLEASE SEE MRS POPE.
Automotive Apprenticeship

An exceptional career opportunity is available for an enthusiastic individual to commence an Automotive apprenticeship with a leading Warrnambool based franchised Automotive workshop.

The successful applicant will possess the following:

- Demonstrate a genuine interest and desire to work in the automotive trade
- Be able to work in a team environment
- Willingness to continually learn new technology
- Excellent communication skills

This position offers excellent career opportunities in a proven and very supportive training environment. The opportunities are endless with this Nationally Recognised Qualification.

Does this rewarding opportunity sound like you?

For all enquiries and a copy of the detailed position description, please contact Wayne Robertson on 0437 170 660.

Application letter and resume should be forwarded to Westvic Work Force
171 Lava Street, Warrnambool VIC 3280
by 5pm, Wednesday 13th August 2008.
World Youth Day Pilgrim Report
Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders

Our trip to Sydney was incredible!

Being part of the Ballarat Diocesan Pilgrim group was an experience that our students will not soon forget. I believe these students have a deeper understanding of how their faith can bring about a sense of belonging. Through the encouragement and guidance of the team leaders, captains and coaches, all the way through to the sincere-friendliness, fun and prayerful support of the clergy who shared our pilgrimage. There was a deep sense of a common goal, to explore and develop a deeper understanding of what it means to celebrate our Christianity and Catholicism.

There were so many highlights including the opportunity to meet others from around the globe. Our students soon warmed to the idea that queuing for a meal, dancing in a conga line, traveling on a train, shuffling along a crowded Sydney road or simply sitting and reflecting amongst a crowd of 200,000 pilgrims all provided opportunities to make new friends and share the joy of the largest Youth Gathering ever held in Australia.

The footage of flags waving on your TV screens was both colorful and uplifting, as was the camaraderie we felt walking under the Eureka Flag, symbolizing the Diocese of Ballarat. That flag, mostly waved both day and night by Fr. Andrew Hayes, was our beacon, we knew as a group we would always find each other under that flag and it was planted each time we were at a significant event such as the welcoming Mass at Barangaroo, the stations of the cross, the Papal welcome into Darling Harbour and finally the overnight vigil and Papal Mass at Randwick Racecourse. There were many opportunities for sharing meals (only served in groups of six) and enjoying the joyous mood that seemed to overtake the whole of Sydney.

Our days were long, heading to the station at 8.15am each morning and returning to All Saints Catholic school to sleep in the classrooms or multipurpose areas and the hall at around 11 pm. Our mornings were filled with Catechesis, Mass and the option of Reconciliation. Our afternoons were filled with many choices. There were too many Youth Festival activities to count, the opportunity to visit St. Mary’s Cathedral, enjoy the atmosphere of Hyde Park, the many activities and displays at Darling Harbour or of the sights of Sydney. The evenings were filled with shared dinners, dancing and singing at various concerts and late night train trips when pilgrims from all over the world shared stories, laughed, snoozed and reflected on the sunny days and friendships made.

Each of us on the Pilgrimage was touched in our own way. Understanding that we belong to a Parish Community, a Diocesan Community and the Community of Believers world wide was a gift we all received during the week. Each of our students experienced his/her own journey and will have their own stories to tell. Please ask them to share these stories with you. Students from Mercy Regional College who attended World Youth Day were, Anna Whiting, Lauren Johnstone, Olivia Moloney, Peta Bourke, Michael and Rachael Harney, James Lenehan, Maggie Hulme, Stacey Hall, Lucy Keogh, Sarah Kemp, Lucy Adams and Jacqui Heffernan. These students all showed exemplary behavior and were proud ambassadors of both their Parishes and MRC.
Along the track

Making God in Our Own Image and Likeness

One of the great gifts of the Hebrew Scriptures is what is known as Wisdom Literature. Born of profound meditation on daily life and how it relates to revealed truths about God and God’s covenant, Wisdom literature has a practical edge. It’s about the practical business of the daily grind of life. Because it is expressed in pithy proverbs and parables does not lessen its truth or its value. We could well imitate this process of reflection on our own life journey and what scripture tells us of God and God’s relationship with us.

One of the great dangers in our life journey to develop a deeper relationship with God is that we tend to fashion God to suit our own ideas and prejudices. One of the ways we often do that is in the area of forgiveness. Sometimes, in our minds, people seem to get away with anything. There is so much evil in the world, God should punish those responsible. It is not enough that the good will eventually have their day and be rewarded. No, the bad must also be punished. It’s all about God’s justice, we say... or is it really? Is it rather about how we feel God ought to act and who God should forgive and who God should punish? Or is it all about our own inability to forgive?

Wisdom literature presents a very different view:

But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people’s sins that they may repent.
For you love everything that exists
and nothing that you have made disgusts you;
for if you hated something, you would not have fashioned it.
And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?
But you spare all things, because they are yours,
O LORD and lover of souls,
for your imperishable spirit is in all things!
Wis 11:22-12:2

In case we don’t get the message, Jesus follows it up with the story (Mt 20:1-16) of the person who hires labourers for the vineyard, some work all day, others are hired at lunchtime, others well into the afternoon. And they all get the same pay! They all get treated the same! Now is that fair? And if that wasn’t enough, how about the story of the Prodigal Son?

The story of the Prodigal Son is one of the most vivid and memorable descriptions of God in Scripture, but it can leave us with a similar sense of dissatisfaction - the older brother was faithful, hardworking, reliable. He did not squander his inheritance. He felt cheated, unable to join in the celebrations at the return of ‘the one who was lost’. Do we feel like that too - we feel we have done the right thing, we are ‘good servants’, trying our best. Like the older brother are we unhappy, and demand that justice not only by giving us our due but by punishing the bad.

If it is often because we feel bitterness, self-pity, anger, that we have the incapacity to let go of hurts just like the older brother of the prodigal son. It’s often because of our own hurts and bitterness that we worry about God’s justice, that God might be too lenient, that the bad will not be fully punished. We find some comfort in the thought that at least God will punish them, even if I can’t! But we should worry less about that and more about our own incapacity to forgive, to let go the bitterness of our hurts. It is time to listen to the words that the Father spoke to the older brother: "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:11-32)

So how does this sit with the Church’s doctrine of purgatory and hell? It is not up to us to make judgements about who is or who is not condemned to punishment. In fact, the Catechism of the Catholic Church leaves open the question of who, if anybody, is damned, stating that “God predestines no one to go to hell” and that hell is a state of “definitive self-exclusion.” Only those who freely persist in their defiance of God’s love “to the end” will suffer damnation. (CCC #1033)

In reality, heaven is a place of infinite love and forgiveness. If we want to share in God’s love then like God, we need to learn to forgive because God has mercy on all.Demanding retribution or justice, as we see it, for the wrongs we may have endured at the hands of others is not God’s way.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts." Is 55:9

Regards

Jim Quilliman