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.

Arts Night
The Mercy Regional College Annual Arts Night is fast approaching. Many of our students studying Arts and Technology subjects are putting the finishing touches to their displays for this evening. An open invitation is extended to all members of the Mercy community to come along to the Arts Evening. The evening is on Wednesday 19th November commencing at 7.30pm in the de Chantal Stadium. I look forward to viewing the various displays of students’ work, completed during the course of the year.

Staffing
I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Rebecca McGrath and Mrs Katrina Boyd to the Mercy Regional College staff for 2009.

Ms Rebecca McGrath will be teaching Science in Year 7, 9 & 10 along with Year 11 Biology. Many of our students will remember Rebecca from her recent teaching rounds at the College

Mrs. Katrina Boyd will operate the College Uniform Shop. Katrina is a current parent of the College with Stacey in Year 9 and Ebony in Year 10.

PTFA Meeting
The next PTFA Meeting will be held on Monday 1st December, commencing at 6.30pm. This meeting will be the Annual General Meeting for the year and will be held at the Commercial Hotel, followed by dinner, to mark the end of another very successful year. Again, I would ask that our parent community support the PTFA by coming along to the meeting and enjoying a meal together afterwards.

Students in the News
In last week’s Corangamite Extra, four articles provided information about achievements of Mercy students. The first article provided information on James Lenehan, as a representative, about a youth forum that presented to the Corangamite Shire a range of ideas and proposals. The proposals include forming a youth council, appointing a youth activities officer and implementing a communication network. See report and photo, from James, on page 5.

Article number two reported about a group of our VCAL students who have been building a cubby house for St Patrick’s Primary School students. The cubby house is a three metre by three metre structure and features a verandah. Congratulations to Damien Evans, Brett Richardson, Chris Grayland, Phil Zentai and Dale Harlock.

Photo courtesy of Corangamite Extra
The third article reported the success of a group of students who dominated at a club Motorcross event, held in Terang, this month. Congratulations to George O'Sullivan, Joe O'Sullivan, Daniel Harry and Louis Hickey for their achievements.

The final article reported about Xavier Gstrien winning the T.J. Goodall Memorial road race, two weeks ago. This was a great achievement, as he was riding in a senior cycling race whilst still a junior. Well done Xavier!

Shooting Team Success
The Mercy Regional College Shooting team recently competed in Minyip, with great success. Tom Collins and Becky Buchholz both won their respective divisions, with Joe Muir coming second in his division. Congratulations to our all team members!

School Uniform & Hats
A reminder to all parents that the summer uniform is to be worn during term 4 and that part of the summer uniform is the requirement that all students must wear the approved College hat when in the sun. The College hat is available from our uniform suppliers.

Year 12 Students
Another year has finished for the Year 12 class. In farewelling our Year 12 students last week at our whole school assembly, I reflected on the stark reality that these young women and men are now ready to embark on the next phase of their life-journey, a journey that will forever change. Gone from their lives are the incessant bells, the rush to the canteen at recess and their roles as leaders of Mercy Regional College. We wish our students well as they prepare for their examinations and hope that their efforts are suitably rewarded. To our Year 12 students of 2008, remember that you are and always will be, a part of the tradition that is Mercy Regional College. Good luck!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our graduating class of 2008 for the way in which they concluded their time at Mercy. Our students ensured that all members of the College were respected, demonstrated appreciation for their teachers and showed a maturity which will ensure that the class of 2008 will be remembered for all the right reasons. The Year 12 Final Assembly was very entertaining, enlightening and most importantly done in good taste and humour. The students set a wonderful example to our younger students and have certainly set a benchmark in relation to how the last days of Year 12 should be celebrated. Congratulations to the class of 2008. It is now my hope that the media attention, in future, turns to the positive way in which schools can celebrate the end of Year 12. The kind of reporting that we have experienced over the last week only goes to glorify behaviour which we find, as a community, unacceptable.

The Year 12 Graduation and Mass will be held on Friday, 21st November. Mass will commence at 6.00pm at St Patrick’s Church, Camperdown followed by the Graduation Dinner commencing at 7.30pm at the Noorat Community Centre. Only students who are currently enrolled in Year 12 at Mercy Regional College will be in attendance. As part of the catering arrangements for this dinner the College does require a number of parents from Year 11 to assist with the serving of meals. If you are able to assist please let Ms Lyn Davies know of your availability.

The family mass will be celebrated by Father Denis Dennehy, and Year 12 students are asked be at the Church by 5.30pm so that they can be organized. It is important that we gather, as a community, to celebrate the Eucharist, to mark the conclusion of 13 years of Catholic education.

I look forward to celebrating the success of our students in early December when the VCE results are released.

Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 12, a reflection title "Into the Deep" written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.
Second Hand Uniform
This year the College will again have second-hand uniform sale. Items will be available at the Year 7 Orientation Day on Tuesday, 2nd December. If you have any uniform items you would like sold on this day, please place the clean uniform items in a bag clearly marked with your name. These items can then be left of the College office. The current green school shirt will not be able to be sold as a second hand item.

Car Raffle
Monday, 1st September, marked the beginning of the 34th year of the Mercy Regional College Car Raffle. The car raffle is certainly now the most important fundraising effort of our PTFA and particularly important this year, with our building redevelopment program about to commence at the O’Keeffe Campus.

This year’s prizes are as follows:

1st Prize: 2008 CL Ford Focus Sedan valued at $26,880 including on road costs (Auto, prestige paint, air conditioning, power steering, cruise control CD player, and ABS) supplied courtesy of Manifold Motors

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

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

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

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

This year we have again selected a more fuel efficient car which will ensure that the running costs, for the eventual winner, will be more economical.

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.

Time is fast approaching when we will be drawing the winner of the car raffle, at Mercy Regional College’s Annual Arts Night, on Wednesday 19th November at 8.30pm in the de Chantal Stadium. All tickets sold or unsold are to be returned by Friday 7th November.

A very small number of dedicated parents have done an enormous amount of work in co-ordinating this year’s Car Raffle. I am extremely grateful to this group who ensure that the College can benefit each year from a substantial donation from the Parents, Teacher and Friends Association.

Last year, the College received over $30,000.00 from the PTFA, which went to furnish our new library at the McAuley Campus. I am sure that parents who have had the opportunity to view the new library will agree that it was money well spent. This year’s donation from the PTFA will be for new resources and furniture for the library at the O’Keeffe Campus.

The success of the Car Raffle relies on ALL parents doing their small part, just a couple of hours selling raffle tickets, as per the roster that was sent home, at the beginning of September. This time is the only request the College makes of all parents for the year and this in turn helps to keep our fees at the very low level in comparison to other Catholic schools in the Diocese.

I do take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, all those parents who have completed their turn on the roster in a co-operative and gracious manner. This makes life so much easier for our Car Raffle Committee.

In the last few remaining weeks of the Car Raffle, I would ask for the full co-operation of all parents to ensure that it is the most successful yet.

Term 1 dates for the start of the school year in 2009
The commencement date for students at Mercy Regional College, in 2009, will be Thursday 29th January. Teachers will return to school on Tuesday 27th January, 2009.

Please note that these dates vary from the State Government commencement dates for 2009. As a consequence of the new Award negotiated with government school teachers, pupils in government schools return on Monday 2nd February, 2009 following three pupil free days.

Under the new arrangements, Victorian government schools will have no further pupil-free days during the year. In Catholic schools, the existing arrangements for pupil-free days will continue.

End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving
This year, our End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday 2nd December at St Thomas’ Church, Terang at 7.00pm followed by supper.

Please note the change of time.

This will allow families to celebrate the Eucharist together. It is the expectation of the College that all students in Year 7–11 will be in attendance.

Following Mass there will be the presentations of awards and prizes.

Supper will follow in the St Thomas’ Community Centre. We ask that parents of our Year 8 students help the St Thomas’ community with catering, by being prepared to bring along a plate of supper to share.
**O’Keeffe Campus**
The builders are on site and have made a start! After some delay with the issuing of a building permit, all is set for the builders to commence the redevelopment of the existing buildings at the O’Keeffe Campus. The refurbished buildings will provide for a new library, information technology room, a science lab and an arts/textiles room. With the delay in issuing the building permit we have lost some valuable building time. Our builders are promising to have the library and IT facilities ready for the New Year, but unfortunately the science and art/textiles area will come on line some weeks later. With various activities such as swimming carnivals, Year 7 & 8 camps, early in the New Year, we don’t foresee too many problems arising, due to this delay.

The six, new, modular classrooms are scheduled to be delivered on 2nd January and ready for occupancy two weeks later. This allows us plenty of time to have these classrooms ready for Year 7 & 8 students by 29th January.

During construction, the building site is officially handed over to the builders and due to occupation, health and safety concerns as well public liability issues, expressed by the builder at a recent site meeting, it is now not possible to have an “Open for Inspection” of the O’Keeffe Campus during construction. Therefore, the schedule date of November 11th has been cancelled. I will keep families posted about progress through the newsletter.

**Extended absences from the College**
Wherever possible, extended absences from school for holidays and other commitments should be avoided. When this is not possible, a written letter to the Principal explaining the circumstances is required. Sending a message to school, via your son or daughter, informing the class teacher of a week’s family holiday, is not acceptable.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind both students and parents that attendance, up to and including the last day of school for the year, is required by all students at all year levels. This certainly includes the transition programs for Year 11 and 10 students.

The last days for the various year levels are listed below:

- **Year 11:** Tuesday 25th November
- **Year 10:** Friday 5th December
- **Year 7-9:** Tuesday 9th December

I thank both students and parents, in advance, for their understanding and co-operation in the above matter.

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**Mercy Awards**

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

Hannah Kenna for taking pride in our surroundings.

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

Siobhan Bond and Samantha Alexander for their commitment and persistence in submitting excellent entries to the Victorian Spirit of Anzac Prize

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

Nathan Bailey for his positive approach to all aspects of his schooling.

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**Camperdown Little Athletics Centre**
The new season is up and running! Camperdown Little Aths began the season last Friday with 80 athletes competing. A late flurry of registrations on the day caused a slight delay in the starting time, but the fantastic weather and enthusiasm shown by the athletes and the parents made it a wonderful evening of fun and competition. We even had four new Centre Records set this week. What a fantastic effort, especially in the first week of the new season! This season we have introduced the “300m Hurdle” to our program for all U13-U16 athletes. We have never run this program in the past and certainly hope the athletes will enjoy the challenge. Both Fridays October 24th & 31st are “Bring a Friend” nights, so please bring along some of your friends to try Little Aths. If any of your friends happen to join, both they & yourself will go into the draw to win an awesome prize!

All enquiries to Diane Ovens on 0407 252 256.

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Andrew Watson
SCADE Report
Vicki Askew-Thornton

On Wednesday, October 15th, the Mercy Regional College Year 11 SCADE (School Communities Approach to Drug Education) Team made a presentation at the Ballarat Diocese SCADE Conference in Hall’s Gap. The team, comprising Jacob Monk, Emily Baird, Jacqui Heffernan and Michael Harney gave a succinct and very polished performance to an audience of over 120 people, including senior Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and Federal Department of Education officials, and staff and students from all other secondary schools in the Diocese.
The team was supported on the day by six of our Year 9 and 10 students, who also learned how other schools implemented their SCADE programs.

The MRC school community should be very proud of the manner in which the SCADE team members have gone about their duties this year – assisting the school to deliver educational activities on alcohol and other drugs and providing valuable input into the future development of our SCADE program.

Parenting and young adolescents
For parents of children aged 10 - 14 years
- Understanding adolescence
- How adolescents might react to changes they experience
- Parenting traps
- Values, goals and actions

Monday 24th November 1 - 3pm

Building strong relationships with young adolescents
For parents of children aged 10 - 14 years
- Communicating
- Giving positive feedback
- Connecting

Monday 8th December 1 - 3pm

For enquiries and bookings of all programs please telephone 5561 5922.

CENTACARE
Term 4 programs

Managing difficult behaviour in children
Incorporating 1-2-3 Magic
For parents of children aged 2-12 years
- Managing difficult behaviour
- Encouraging good behaviour
- Establishing boundaries
- Negotiating change respectfully
- Lessen parental feelings of frustration & stress

Tuesday 25th November 1 - 3 pm
Tuesday 2nd December 1 - 3 pm
Tuesday 9th December 1 - 3 pm

Colac Cycling Club
Presents
Track cycling skills and racing for students and adults.

Where: South Colac Recreation Reserve.
When: Sunday afternoons.
Time: 4.30pm - 6.30pm.

Track Bikes Available
Please bring your own helmet if possible.

All junior participants are entered into the draw to win a Giant Mountain Bike at the end of the track season.

For further information please contact –
Cameron Shaw 0405 000 911
Darren Allan 0419 538 571
David Lunn 0409 311 931
5231 1931
Marie Middleton 0448 003 584
Mark Zampatti 5231 6349
Clare Jehu 5595 1088
Summit Students Brief Corangamite Shire
Report by James Lenehan

Six months of brainstorming and discussion came to fruition last Tuesday when five representatives of the Youth Summit group briefed a Corangamite Shire meeting about how council could assist young people in the local area.

The process began in April and May with summits being conducted at all secondary and P-12 schools in the shire. Most schools involved their SRC and leadership groups in these summits but some senior classes were also asked to contribute thoughts.

From the seven school summits came many ideas on issues related to health, education and training, entertainment, the environment, giving everyone a fair go and having a community voice.

Armed with butcher’s paper, already laden with the views of students across the shire, the schools then sent representatives to a combined Youth Summit in the former Council chambers on June 6th.

Here they were further inspired by well-known facilitator, Michael “Mo” O’Meara who had just returned from playing a key role in the Youth Summit in Canberra. After working through a series of challenging personal development tasks, the students were encouraged to maintain their energy and take their ideas to council.

“We were told we could make a difference,” student, Andrew Pegg (Cobden Technical School) said. “And it wasn’t long before we realised what potential we had as a group with plenty of good ideas.”

“All we need is the support of partners – the Corangamite Shire, or other community groups – to provide us with the necessary resources to implement some of our ideas,” Mercy’s James Lenehan said.

Caitlin Browning, from Cobden Technical School, was full of praise for the shire which had already assisted the group by providing a grant to bring facilitator Michael O’Meara to Camperdown. “The council has shown it is willing to work with young people by engaging “Mo” to run our summit. He really was a dynamic man,” she said.

Reports were finalised before twelve of the original group returned to the summit on September 11th to frame recommendations to present to council.

“The top three recommendations were:
“That a Corangamite Youth Council be established as a forum for young people to discuss issues, formulate action plans and make considered recommendations to Council and its officers.”

“That a Council position be funded to co-ordinate youth activities and resources in the shire. If a position cannot be funded in the short-term, then Council investigates ways to achieve this – using community partners or other organisations and agencies.”

“That the shire establishes a communication network including a youth website, youth-orientated FM radio programs, newspaper columns and school and community notice-boards to keep young people informed of events, activities and opportunities.”

The other three recommendations put to council were:

“That a Youth Centre be established in the Shire.”

“That Council investigates ways to provide even more transport for young people.”

“That more music events for young people be held in the Shire.”

Local Community Partnerships facilitator Kelvin White, who has worked with the Youth Summit group this year, said Council warmly received the presentation from the students.

“The councillors and officers obviously appreciated the effort put in by the students and responded very positively to their recommendations,” he said.

The students now hope to report to their individual schools. “Because all the Summit representatives could not attend the shire briefing, it would be great for us to have the opportunity to deliver our PowerPoint presentation to our colleagues at our individual schools,” Courtney said.

“That’s where the process began so it would be a natural conclusion to all our hard work,” added James.
From the Director of Learning and Teaching

Careers Report
Mrs. Lisa Pope

**RURAL ALLIED HEALTH UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships are available in 2008 for first year students from rural Victoria studying an eligible allied health undergraduate course. Applications close 13 March 2009. For more details and application forms visit: [www.VHA.org.au](http://www.VHA.org.au)

**C.A.S. HAWKER SCHOLARSHIP**

The 2009 C.A.S. Hawker Scholarships, valued at up to $60,000 over four years, are the most generous privately-funded scholarships available to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Australia. The scholarships open on 1st December and close on 9th January 2009. The Scholarships are available to Australian students to study at a large number of Universities and Colleges. An application form, scholar profiles, including the ten recipients in 2008, FAQ's, and the life story of C.A.S. Hawker can be found on the website [www.hawkerscholarship.org](http://www.hawkerscholarship.org). Information is available by contacting the secretary to the Trustees on (08) 8127 1654. Selection is based largely on personal qualities as well as academic ability.

**NEWMAN COLLEGE CHOIR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students can apply for Newman College choir scholarships. Entry is by audition. Scholarships are $1000 for the first year and then $1300 for the second year. If residing at Newman College students can receive a fee reduction. Contact 9347 5577 or email reception@newman.unimelb.edu for details.

**Tax File Numbers**

If you need a Tax File Number you can collect a form from the office. When you obtain your tax file number, through school, you do not have to obtain original documents to forward to the Tax Office. The MRC office verifies the tax form with our records.

**White Card**

Under the Occupation Health & Safety laws and regulations, any person on a construction worksite needs to hold a “White Card” (Construction Induction O H & S Card). Therefore, any student who is doing Work Experience, Work Placement or VET/VCAL in 2009 will need to obtain a “White Card” if they will be working in the plumbing, electrical or building trades. The College is holding a “White Card” Day on 24th November and the cost of the day is $150.00. If you need to do this course please see Maureen at the office.

For more information on careers, application forms etc. or curriculum see Mrs. Lisa Pope.

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**Reminder**

Re School Fee Accounts

**Today is the last day for all School Fees to be paid in full - Friday 31st October, 2008**

If you have not paid any school fees to date, you need to commence making payments either by:

- Cash
- Cheque
- Money Order
- Credit Card [in person or over the phone]
- Internet Banking
- Or deposit directly into our bank

**National Australia Bank**

BSB 083 523
A/ C No 5288 99931

All accounts with fees outstanding from 2007 must also be paid in full as well as all fees for 2008.

If outstanding accounts have not been paid and no explanation given to myself, these accounts may be handed over to an external debt collection agency.

**Martin Ellul - Business Manager**
Music at Mercy
Fiona Pugh – Music Director

Dates for your Diary

Instrumental Music Concerts
Multi Purpose Room

Tuesday, 25 November at 7.30pm
(Students of Peter Sharp and Helen Bourke)

Wednesday, 26 November at 7.30pm
(Students of Alex Francis and Michelle McKinnon)

Family and Friends are warmly invited to see the progress our instrumental music students have made this semester.

Please bring a plate to share for supper afterwards.

Trinity College Visit
On Wednesday, 29th October Trinity College School Band and String Orchestra visited MRC for a Music Workshop with some of our instrumental music students. MRC and Trinity College students then performed for our Years 7,8,10 and 11 students.

After the performance, instruments were demonstrated to our students and students were then given the opportunity to ‘play’ some of these instruments.

This experience was, for many of our instrumental music students, their first experience of playing in a band or orchestra - and they did a great job!

Thank you to the following students for ‘having a go’!

Here are some photos from the day.
Dear Parents,

A Tupperware Lunchbox Drive Fundraiser will be held over the next few weeks.

How does it work? Any items purchased from the range of Tupperware Sandwich Keepers, the College will receive 10% of all sales. Not only do you receive a quality product for your child or other family members, but, it also helps raise some money for the school and saves with littering.

An order form and brochure outlining the available products was sent home with the youngest member of your family last Friday (see picture of brochure below).

If you wish to purchase items, just fill in the order form and return with your payment to the College office by Friday 21st November.
# Coming Events

## Term 4

**Monday 3rd November**
- Board Holiday (no classes)

**Tuesday 4th November**
- Melbourne Cup Holiday (no classes)

**Wednesday 5th November**
- TCC/MRC exchange commences

**Monday 10th November**
- TCC/MRC exchange concludes

**Wednesday 12th November**
- MRC/TCC exchange commences

**Monday 17th November**
- MRC/TCC exchange concludes
- Year 11 to 12 Transition commences

**Wednesday 19th November**
- MRC Annual Arts Evening commencing at 7.30pm
- MRC Car Raffle Draw at 8.30pm

**Thursday 20th November**
- Year 11 to 12 Transition concludes

**Friday 21st November**
- Year 11 Study Day
- Graduation Mass @ 6.00pm – St Patrick’s Church, Camperdown
- Graduation Dinner @ 7.30pm – Noorat Community Centre

**Monday 24th November**
- Year 11 Exams

**Tuesday 25th November**
- Year 11 Exams
- Year 11 student conclude

**Friday 26th November**
- Year 7-10 Study Day – no school
- Staff Professional Development Day

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**Monday 1st December**
- PTFA AGM Meeting @ Commercial Hotel, 6:30pm
- Year 10 to 11 Transition commences

**Tuesday 2nd December**
- Year 7, 2009 Orientation Day
- Year 7 & 8 Exams

**Wednesday 3rd December**
- Year 7 & 8 Exams
- Year 9
- Year 10 to 11 Transition concludes

**Thursday 4th December**
- Year 9 & 10 Exams

**Friday 5th December**
- Year 9 & 10 Exams
- Year 10 students conclude

**Tuesday 9th December**
- Year 7 to 9 students conclude
- End of Year Mass @ St Thomas Church, Terang, 7.00pm followed by supper

**Friday 12th December**
- Teaching Staff conclude

**Monday 15th December**
- Release of Year 12 VCE results

**Wednesday 17th December**
- Office closes
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<td>5 w/e 7/11</td>
<td>English, Maths [7A &amp; 7B], Info Tech</td>
<td>Writing Folio Task, Angles Test, Graphics Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 w/e 14/11</td>
<td>RE, LOTE – Cultural Studies, PE</td>
<td>Where would Jesus fit into our world today. Then and now Collage, Poster, Theory Assessment Task</td>
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<td>RE</td>
<td>Sacraments</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 w/e 14/11</td>
<td>English, Maths, PE, LOTE – Cultural Studies, Art [8B]</td>
<td>The Giver Folio of Tasks, Coordinates and Graphs Test, Theory Assessment Task, Poster, Artist Assignment</td>
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<td>Maths [9A &amp; 9B], Art</td>
<td>Writing Folio Task, Consumer Maths Test, Surreal Artist Project Completed</td>
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<td>6 w/e 14/11</td>
<td>English, Maths [9A &amp; 9B], Maths [9N], PE, Design, Science, Food Tech, Media [Elective], IT [Elective]</td>
<td>Trigonometry Chapter Test, Theory Assessment Task, Artist Assignment, Practical Write-up, Design Folio, Completion of Web Page production, Web Folio and final production due [completed in class]</td>
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<td>Maths [Methods], Outdoor Education</td>
<td>Circle Geometry Test, Exam Revision</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 w/e 14/11</td>
<td>RE, English, Maths [General], Maths [Methods], PE, Art / Photography, Outdoor Education, Food, Computer Applications, VCAL</td>
<td>Assessment Task – “The Church through Time”, Writing Folio Task, Circular Functions Test, Theory Application Task: Fitness for Life Assignment, Self-Portraits, Exam Revision, Folio, Spreadsheet Test 2, PD &amp; WRS complete all Projects and Outcomes</td>
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<td>Biology [Unit 2], Australian History [Unit 4], Psychology [Unit 4], Physics</td>
<td>Test, Examination, Unit Exam 06/11/08 at 9.00am, Electricity Assignment</td>
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<td>6 w/e 14/11</td>
<td>Biology [Unit 2], VCAL</td>
<td>Assignment – Ecosystems, PD &amp; WRS complete all Projects and Outcomes</td>
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<td>Exam – 03/11/08 at 9.00am, Exam – 06/11/08 at 9.00am, Examination</td>
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<td>6 w/e 14/11</td>
<td>VCAL</td>
<td>PD &amp; WRD complete all Projects and Outcomes</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.
Many of the stories in Scripture are timeless, not only in the enduring relevance of their message but in their originality, their structure, their literary genius. It is not surprising that they are repeated, sometimes even in the same Gospel. The multiplication of the loaves and fishes, for example, is repeated in Mark — different details in each but the basics of the same story. Luke and John both relate the story of the miraculous catch of fish, Luke puts it at the start of his Gospel coinciding with the call of the first apostles, whereas John has his version as a post-resurrection story. Nonetheless, it is a wonderful and enduring story.

John’s version paints a vivid picture. After the shock and confusion of Jesus’ death, Peter and a few of the other disciples decided to go fishing, to return to what they knew. That was not surprising — often in such times we find comfort in the familiar, in what we know. Sometimes too, like these apostles, we go home or at least to somewhere we know well. Galilee was their home, a beautiful place, so different to the noise and chaotic life of Jerusalem.

That night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore and called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” They did not recognise him and you can almost hear the grumpiness in the “No,” they answered, it was a tough night — fruitless and depressing, not only no fish but their conversation must have centred on their confusion and depression. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” In other words, don’t stick with the old patterns — try something different. When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish they had caught.

The next scene in this little drama is remarkable. When they managed to land, they saw a fire burning with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught and come and have breakfast.” Jesus took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. (Jn 21:6-8).

This is Jesus’ home country — he spent a lot of his time here. He had been well received in the towns and villages around here. Crowds had flocked to hear him. It is easy to assume that this scene was a very familiar one to his colleagues on the boat. They have eaten breakfasts with Him like this before. They knew Him well, they trusted Him, even though they had fished all night, they were depressed, confused, exhausted, they were willing to cast off again, to try again.

Our faith requires a familiarity like theirs — if we are to follow Jesus, if we are to become like Him, if we are to have faith, we need to become familiar with him, we need to spend time in Jesus’ presence, in his company.

Faith is above all a conversion to Jesus Christ, the decision to walk in his footsteps. This demands a permanent commitment to think like Him, to judge like Him to live as He lived. (General Directory for Catechesis #53)

That won’t happen overnight. Look at these apostles, his closest followers. They didn’t have a smooth ride — their decision to walk in Jesus’ footsteps took courage, perseverance and persistence... and time spent in His company.

‘Put out into the deep,’ Jesus instructed them — put out your nets on the other side. Indeed, he asks each of us to have trust and faith in Him, to step out with Him, to take a chance, to allow Him to lead us where He would take us. To help us to make that decision, He calls on us to spend time with him, just as he spent time with his Father.

I spent eight years being educated by the Jesuits. Each night we read a section of the Scriptures in preparation for the next day’s meditation. Their technique of ‘composition of place’ was very effective. It still is. Take some time to imagine a scene from any of the Gospels. Where was it? Who was there? What was happening? Put yourself into the scene. Put yourself into that breakfast scene by the Sea of Galilee. Take some time to imagine the sea, to hear the noises, to talk to the others who are there with you. How confused they must have been — their expectations of the Messiah had been dashed, they had such high hopes for Jesus and for Israel under His leadership. In such a short time He had been captured, tortured and crucified. What a disgrace. But now he is back. Can you even begin to imagine how confusing yet exciting this must have been for them?

Spending time with Jesus is essential — by reading the Gospels, by silent prayer, by encountering Him in the Eucharist. Sometimes we are very familiar with the stories or parables or incidents in the Gospels. Taking some time to re-read them can bring new insights and greater understanding. Such a personal encounter with Jesus, learning to think like him, learning to act like him is never a one-off event:

The Christian is one who accepts Jesus’ call to discipleship and whose whole life is shaped by that. That process (rather than a single, once-and-for-all act) by which the human person moves to Christian discipleship is called conversion" (McGreeey, Catechism p 923).

That’s what was happening at breakfast by the Sea of Galilee.

Regards
Jim Quilliman
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Information about the 2009 MRC Instrumental Music Program

In 2009, I am hoping to expand our Instrumental Music Program by hiring a Woodwind Teacher and a Brass Teacher. A String Program will also commence. However, in order to hire these teachers I need an indication of interest from our students.

If your child is interested in learning a woodwind, brass or string instrument in 2009, please return the ‘Expression of Interest’ form below to the School Office by Friday, 12 November.

The following musical instruments are offered for Tuition in 2009.

**Woodwind Instruments:** Clarinet*, Flute, Saxophone*
**Brass Instruments:** Trumpet*, Trombone*, French Horn*, Euphonium*, Tuba*
**String Instruments:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass
**Other Instruments:** Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums

*These musical instruments may be offered in 2009.

**Hiring/Purchasing Instruments and Music Tuition Fees**

Students need to hire or purchase instruments to participate in our instrumental music program. I am currently obtaining quotes for the best school deal and will notify you of these prices in the next newsletter. As an indication, one quote lists flutes, clarinets, trumpets and trombones for hire for $68 per term and alto saxophones for $115 per term. Music Tuition Fees in 2008 have been $180 per semester for a group lesson or $360 per semester for an individual lesson.

An Instrumental Music Information Meeting will be held later in the term if there is sufficient interest in expanding our Instrumental Music Program. If you have any queries about our Instrumental Music Program, you can contact me via email: fpugh@mercy.vic.edu.au or contact the school on 5593 2011 to leave a message.

Fiona Pugh
Music Director

Please detach the section below and return to the College office by Friday, 12 November.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - Instrumental Music Program 2009**

**Student(s) Name:**

**Class:**

**Instrument/s:**

**Parent’s Name:**

**Contact Phone No:**