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.

Advent
This Sunday we commence the season of Advent, a very important time in the Church’s Liturgical Calendar. The season of Advent is symbolized by the Advent Wreath. The wreath is a symbol of growth and life. Traditionally adorned with purple and pink candles, it reminds us of the power of the light of Christ overcoming evil in our world. The circle symbolizes the continuity of life. The word “Advent” means “coming” (from the Latin Adventus) and this is the time we wait in joyful anticipation for our God to come, yet again and be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognizes the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. During Advent, we are challenged to be open to the unexpected and be ready for a few surprises! That is not always easy. The familiar is always more comfortable than the unfamiliar. God will not be boxed or labelled or “assumed”. God will be God and come amongst us in ways that we least expect.

Lord, as we look to the birth of Jesus, Grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us.
Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming,
For Jesus is our hope.
Amen

Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner
Friday, 21st November, our graduating class for 2008 gathered at St Patrick’s Church Camperdown to celebrate the Eucharist together, followed by the presentation of awards. Particular thanks are extended to Father Denis Dennehy for celebrating our Mass. This was then followed by a wonderful Graduation dinner held at the Noorat Community Centre. The Noorat Community Centre proved to be a terrific venue which was wonderfully decorated and as always our graduating students looked magnificent. The highlight of the evening, especially from the staff’s point of view, was the heartfelt speeches made by the College Captains, followed by the very thoughtful presentation to each Year 12 teacher. As a staff we were humbled and very appreciative of the efforts that the students went to say thank you.
A thank-you is also extended to some of our Year 11 students who sang in the choir and served the tables at the Graduation Dinner, along with Year 11 parents who assisted in the kitchen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>Servers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil Janes</td>
<td>Tim Hickey</td>
<td>Marie Harney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Boyd</td>
<td>Maggie Hulme</td>
<td>Donna Baxter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paddy Moloney</td>
<td>Lachy Hose</td>
<td>Loreto Milbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Jhu</td>
<td>Caitlyn Mason</td>
<td>Jacinta Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Rantall</td>
<td>Jacob Gaut</td>
<td>Marie Harney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Rose</td>
<td>Emily Baird</td>
<td>Christina Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Muir</td>
<td>Jacinta Horan</td>
<td>Linda Kenna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacquie Heffernan</td>
<td>Caitin Watson</td>
<td>Annette Grayland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgina Downs</td>
<td>Marnie Buchholz</td>
<td>Bryce McSween</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey Hall</td>
<td>Jenna McSween</td>
<td>Marie Harney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hugh Saunders</td>
<td></td>
<td>Donna Baxter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millie Cabel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loreto Milbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachael Broomby</td>
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<td>Jacinta Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paige Jenkins</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marie Harney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Adams</td>
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<td>Christina Lee</td>
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</table>

Finally, my appreciation is extended to Mrs Margaret Leahy for her creative talents in putting together a very moving liturgy full of rich and symbolic rituals, Mrs Fiona Pugh for directing the choir and overseeing the music for the Graduation Mass and Ms Lyn Davies for her outstanding organisation of the Graduation Dinner.
Year 12 Prizes and Awards
At the conclusion of our Graduation Mass awards and prizes were presented the following students:

Corangamite Citizenship Award
This award recognizes a student who is involved in the local community through groups such as service clubs and youth groups. This student has been prepared to represent the school at events not directly related to sport or the curriculum, such as RYPEN weekends and Youth Forums. The winner of this award is a student who is prepared to work towards improving the local community.

Awarded to: Verity Thornton

Principal’s Award
This award recognises the recipient as a person who has worked with and for others to a level of excellence in academic, sporting, religious and service activities within the College.

Awarded to: Adam Thulborn

Caltex Allrounder Award
This award recognizes a student who participates in a wider range of school activities, does not necessarily display champion qualities in any single pursuit, but shows commitment, a willingness to participate and desire to always do their best. While other awards recognise outstanding achievement in a particular field, this award rewards the student’s total achievement in the school and community. The winner is an excellent role model for fellow students.

Awarded to: Holly Noonan

College Captain’s Presentation
As leaders of the College this student has been a proud and willing ambassador of the College. They have displayed sound leadership skills and were admired by their peers for the manner in which they demonstrated their responsibilities.

Presentation made to: Anna Whiting & Nick Stephenson

Australian Defence Force Leadership & Teamwork Award
This award recognises a student who has displayed outstanding leadership ability and appreciated the value and contribution of everyone in a team.

Awarded to: Anna Whiting

West Vic Workforce VET/ VCAL Award
This award is presented to student/s to recognise and reward excellence for students who have achieved excellence in their apprenticeships and traineeships:

Awarded to: Claire Foster and Nick McConnell
**Term 1 dates for the start of the school year in 2009**

In the last edition of the newsletter, I informed parents about the commencement dates for Mercy Regional College for 2009. I also outlined the arrangements that had been put in place for the Department of Education Schools which due to the new Award negotiated with government school teachers, pupils in government schools return on Monday, 2\(^{nd}\) February, 2009, following three pupil free days. As a consequence, the government school buses will not operate until Monday, 2\(^{nd}\) February, which means that no buses will operate for Mercy Regional College students on Thursday, 29\(^{th}\) January and Friday, 30\(^{th}\) January. After making inquiries, I have been informed by the Catholic Education Office that there is nothing we can do to have the buses operate on these days.

With close to 90 per cent of our students relying on government buses, I feel that we have no choice but to commence school for students on Monday, 2\(^{nd}\) February and have our professional development days in the three preceding days, rather than spread throughout the year as we have done in the past.

Therefore, the following dates will now apply to the beginning of 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 19(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>Book Collection Day&lt;br&gt;MRC Uniform Shop&lt;br&gt;Open (8.30am – 4.00pm)&lt;br&gt;College Office&lt;br&gt;Open (10.00am – 2.00pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 20(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>MRC Uniform Shop&lt;br&gt;Open (8.30am – 10.30am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs 22(^{nd}) January</strong></td>
<td>College Office&lt;br&gt;Open normal hours (8.15am – 4.30pm)&lt;br&gt;MRC Uniform Shop&lt;br&gt;Open (2.30pm – 4.30pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 23(^{rd}) January</strong></td>
<td>MRC Uniform Shop Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 26(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 27(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>MRC Uniform Shop&lt;br&gt;Open (10.30am – 3.30pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 28(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>Staff Day 1&lt;br&gt;MRC Uniform Shop&lt;br&gt;Open (12.30pm – 5.00pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs 29(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>Staff Day 2&lt;br&gt;MRC Uniform Shop&lt;br&gt;Open (8.00am – 12.00pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 30(^{th}) January</strong></td>
<td>Staff Day 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 2(^{nd}) February</strong></td>
<td>All Students Commence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please note no staff days at the beginning of terms 2, 3 & 4. Students will commence on the Monday, at the beginning of each term, in 2009).

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**Arts Night**

On Wednesday evening the College’s Annual Arts Evening was held. This evening is an opportunity for the showcasing of students’ work from the Arts and Technology Faculties. I am sure most people who were able to get along to the evening would agree that the students’ technology projects, artwork and performances were outstanding.

Congratulations to all students who had their work exhibited and thanks are extended to the staff of the Arts and Technology Faculties: Mr Wayne Walsh, Mr Jared Lyn, Ms Tina Jenkins, Mrs Fiona Pugh, Mrs Jenny Binder, Ms Lyn Davies, Ms Danae Fraser Mrs Sharyn Grinter, Mrs Margaret Jeffery, and Mrs Annette Price.
The drawing of our Car Raffle has become very much part of the Arts Night. This year the winners were:

1st Prize: 2007 CL Ford Focus Sedan valued at $27,955 including on road costs supplied courtesy of Manifold Motors

WINNER: Clare Hope, Allansford

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

WINNER: John Madsen, Mortlake

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

WINNER: Peter Moncrieff, Port Campbell

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

WINNER: Xavier Gstrein, Camperdown

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

WINNER: Mitchell Carrigan-Walsh, Camperdown

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

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

End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving
This year, our End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday, 9th 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 would be in attendance. Following Mass there will be the presentations of awards and prizes. Supper will follow in the St Thomas’ Community Centre. We would 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.

Second Hand Uniform / Book Sale
This year the College will again have second-hand uniform / text-book sale at the Year 7 Orientation Day, on Tuesday, 2nd December. If you have any uniform items or text books you would like sold on this day, please place the clean uniform items in a bag clearly marked with your name. The current green school shirt will not be able to be sold as a second hand item. These items can then be left at the College office. Text books will be accepted only if they are on the list of books to be used in 2009. Please check list at the office first.

PTFA Meeting
The next PTFA Meeting will on Monday, 1st December, commencing at 6.30pm. This meeting 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.

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

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

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

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

Author unknown
Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 11, a reflection title “Cancel Christmas” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

Pick up of Students
A reminder to parents. If you are picking up your son or daughter, this needs to occur in Dimora Ave which has been designated as the pick-up point for students travelling in motor vehicles. Henderson Street is the designated point for pick-up of students travelling on buses. The two areas have been separate to avoid both cars and buses being in the same street at the same time. I also remind parents to observe the 40km speed zones.

Last Edition of the MRC Newsletter
Please note that the last edition of the College Newsletter will be posted home with reports on Friday 12th December 2008.

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Jac Domney for winning the first prize in the Short Story Competition at the Noorat Show.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

James Alexander 8B for doing a great job of hosting the Year 7 & 8 assembly.

Wellbeing Report
Kerin Glennen

Summer time is here and with it comes BBQ’s, Christmas Parties, families and friends getting together to talk and celebrate the passing of another year. At most gatherings there is food, cricket matches and drinks. Whilst we are reminiscing and celebrating with others, are we aware of what "A Standard Drink" is in relation to alcohol?

The drinking limits, set out in the Australian Alcohol Guidelines, are based on the standard drink concept. A standard drink is any that contains 10 grams of alcohol. Just as one meter measures distance travelled, one standard drink measures alcohol consumed. Standard drinks are used to count drinks instead of counting bottles, cans, etc. The standard drink is a simple and reliable way of keeping track of how much alcohol is consumed. Counting bottles or cans can be misleading and using the per cent figure can be difficult.

The number of standard drinks in alcoholic beverages is always shown on the label of the container. If in doubt check the label or ask bar staff.

Counting standard drinks is simply a matter of adding numbers. Example: if a person has one shot of spirits and two average restaurant glasses of wine, they would have consumed 4 standard drinks (1 +1.5+1.5=4).

What also needs to be taken into account is that the person's ability to cope with alcohol is also influenced by their physical size and stage of development. Younger members of our community are more susceptible to be harmed by alcohol because they have a smaller body size and cannot break down alcohol as fast as adults. Young people also lack the experience of alcohol and its effects and they do not know how much alcohol will be too much for them.

Alcohol can make young people lose their inhibitions and decision-making skills quickly and this places them at particular risk of violence, accidents and sexual coercion.

Helping young people to learn about the effects of alcohol, within a supportive environment, can help them understand and minimise the risk to themselves and to others, both when they are young and throughout their adult lives.

However, research shows that the earlier a young person starts to drink, the greater the risk of alcohol related problems later in life.

By all means enjoy a safe summer of fun with your family but remember to stay safe and take care of each other.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 7</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>w/e 12/12</td>
<td>Maths [7A &amp; 7B]</td>
<td>Maps, Networks and Data &amp; Chance Test Angles Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maths [7N]</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 8</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Assessment Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>w/ 5/12</td>
<td>Info Tech</td>
<td>Graphics Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>w/ 12/12</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Graphs and Data / Probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Assessment Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>w/ 5/12</td>
<td>Media [Elective]</td>
<td>Completion and animation production Completed animation folio due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>w/ 12/12</td>
<td>Maths [9A &amp; 9B]</td>
<td>Statistics Test Completed digital folio due</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Media [Elective]</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 10</td>
<td>Week</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>w/ 5/12</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Exams Web Page Design Project Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>w/ 12/12</td>
<td>Maths [Methods]</td>
<td>Further Geometry Test Completed Paraline Drawing Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphics</td>
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<td>YEAR 11</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Assessment Item</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>w/ 5/12</td>
<td>Design Tech</td>
<td>Project &amp; Folio due</td>
</tr>
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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

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**Car Raffle Report**

*Maureen Adeney - Raffle Co-ordinator*

Thank you to all parents, staff and friends of the College for your generous support in making our annual car raffle another success in 2008. It has been another record profit with approximately $27,000 raised.

I would like to acknowledge the generosity of John Cheslett and Staff of Manifold Motors Camperdown, A.K. McKenzie Motors of Colac, Kim Tracey and Staff from Harvey World Travel in Camperdown, Jacinta Lee from Camperdown Retravision, Jim Willsher from Showcase Jewellers of Camperdown and Colac and John, Agnes & Dennis Madden, Madden’s Bar & Bistro Camperdown.

Thank you to John Cheslett for the presentation of the car and for delivering the car to all our selling points around Camperdown. John worked tirelessly to get the car from point A to point B and also kept it in immaculate condition. The College really appreciates all John’s work throughout the duration of the raffle.

Thank you to the Car Raffle Committee – Susan Jenkins, Anne Carr, Danny Gordon, Julie Keough and Debra Cheslett from Camperdown, Bronwyn Moloney from Terang, Loreto Milbourne and Clare Jehu from Cobden, Caroline Buchholz from Lismore, Joanne Robertson from Simpson, Cherolyn Bullen from Timboon and Maryrose Muir from Mortlake.

Thank you to all parents and friends for selling tickets, and for those who sat in the street to sell tickets. Another thankyou to Annette Price, Marie & Terry Harney, Tracey Stevenson and her team for all their help during the raffle.

We would like to thank each business that sold tickets in their shops. Also, to Peter Conheady from Autografix Warrnambool for signs on the car and to Rodney Garside from Signworx, in Camperdown, for the printing on the sandwich boards.

Thanks to everyone. It was a great effort and all the hard work paid off.
**Thomas Carr Exchange Program**  
*Report by Caitlin Hickey*

On the 5th of November, the annual Mercy Regional College-Thomas Carr exchange program commenced, with ten students participating from each school. The exchange program is aimed at students who enjoy getting out of their comfort zone and step into a different, yet similar, situation to their own. The Mercy students arrived ready to meet their exchange partners. The students spent the night with their new families. The next day was a chance for the Mercy students to experience a new school and new subjects. On the Friday, all the people who participated in the program went to Melbourne for a day in the ‘big smoke’. They went to some of Melbourne’s popular spots, the Eureka sky deck, the Docklands and Bourke Street mall for some shopping and lunch, and then they did the city loop on a tram where famous Melbourne buildings and attractions were pointed out. The weekend was spent with their exchange partner. Some people went to the shopping centre or sporting events and some people just spent some quality time with their exchange. On Monday, the Mercy students went home. On the Wednesday, the Thomas Carr students came to Mercy and on Friday, the exchange students went to Port Campbell/The Great Ocean Road to Loch Ard Gorge and the Twelve Apostles, then back to Port Campbell for lunch. On the weekend the city students familiarised themselves with the country and before they knew, it was Monday and time to leave. The exchange program is run to contrast the differences between country and city life.

**Design Technology Woodwork**  
*Wayne Walsh*

This year, in the wood room, we have seen some fantastic projects made. I would like to congratulate all students who have contributed to the technology area this year. Last Wednesday night was the Technology Arts Night and to all who attended you have seen how gifted our students really are. The designs and projects were truly amazing. Well done to everyone involved. Thanks to all parents for picking up the students’ work and please, if there is still work to be picked up, can you pick it up as soon as possible, so the stadium can be used for PE again. Please make sure that you pay at the office for your son / daughter’s woodwork projects before picking them up.

**VCAL**  

The VCAL students have been busy building a cubby house for the primary school throughout semester two. At the moment, the students are just putting the finishing touches on the job. The students have done a great job, from start to finish, as part of their work-related skills program. Inside the cubby is a large painting of some cartoon characters. Well done to Amy and Sam who put in many hours to complete the painting.

I’m sure the Preps and Grade Ones will love this cubby and get much use from this Congratulations to all who helped.

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**Canada Trip**  
*Wayne Walsh*

Last month, Mr Glennen and myself ventured to Canada to visit several schools to develop our curriculum, gaining new ideas and gathering different materials. The schools that we visited in Canada were based around self-paced learning and self-directed learning, similar to what our students do when they go to university. We travelled from Vancouver, across to Toronto with lots of visits to public and Catholic schools. The students at these schools were very outgoing and mature people and were great to deal with. This had a lot to do with the self-paced, self-directed schools as these students are responsible for their work requirements and actions. Some very noticeable things in the schools were: how tidy they were kept and how interested they were in Australia. The whole experience and the knowledge gained was great and hopefully, in time, we can add some of these aspects to our curriculum in the near future.

**Year 12 Graduation Dinner**  
*Lyn Davies*

The Year 12 graduation began with a celebration Mass at St Patrick’s church in Camperdown. The students looked wonderful and showed us they were indeed well on the way to becoming young adults being immaculately groomed. A great deal of care had gone into the choice of dress for the girls and the suit and ties for the boys. The Mass was developed with imput from Year 12’s, under the guidance of Margaret Leahy and was very much a personal celebration of the end of their secondary schooling. The Mass concluded with the students exiting with candles lit from the central candle, symbolizing the future. When the students returned to the church the award ceremony began.

- The Corangamite Citizenship Award to Verity Thornton.
- The Principal’s Award to Adam Thulborn.
- The Caltex Allrounder to Holly Noonan.
- The College Captains, Anna Whiting and Nicholas Stephenson, were presented with a compendium each.
- The Long Tan leadership award went to Anna Whiting.
- The VET Excellence award went to Claire Foster for Certificate 3 in Community Service - Aged Care and Nicholas McConnell for Certificate 3 in Building and Construction.

The dinner was held at the Noorat Community Centre. The venue was decorated by Lush Productions with the colours of black and silver and looked stunning. The sense of occasion was heightened with such wonderful touches. The three-course meal was capably prepared by cook extraordinaire, Lorelle Salmon, assisted by the Year 11 parents and served by the Year 11 students as waiters. A presentation from our school captains to VCE staff, thanking them for their work over 2008, completed the formal part of the evening. It was a fitting end to a great year with a terrific group of students.
STOP PRESS - WE NEED YOU!

MRC is currently advertising widely for a Woodwind Teacher (clarinet, saxophone, oboe) and a Brass Teacher (trumpet, trombone, French horn and euphonium) to commence at MRC in 2009.

I am hoping that there are many budding trumpet players and clarinetists out there who would like to join our instrumental program in 2009 and learn from our new teachers.

Please complete and return the Enrolment Form on the last page of this newsletter, no later than next Friday, so that we know how many students we have for our new teachers, as soon as possible. This new venture cannot happen without your support! Just imagine playing in a school band in a year’s time.

Instrumental Music Lessons Re-Enrol for 2009!
This month, Instrumental Teachers sent a letter home with their students. The letter was about our instrumental concerts and it also had a form to return which notifies us of your child’s intention to continue or discontinue learning their instrument.

Could you please return this form as soon as possible, if you haven’t already. If you need another form, they are available at the School Office. You can discuss your child’s progress by contacting their teacher or myself. via email: fpugh@mercy.vic.edu.au

Arts Night
Arts Night was held on Wed, 19th November in the Stadium and several of our students performed for the crowd.
Thank you to Anna and Sarah Kemp, Andrew Kinnear, Jock Goold, Natalie Fleming, Rachel Heffernan, and Casey and Samantha Alexander for playing so beautifully.

Instrumental Music Concerts
Two evening concerts were held on Tuesday and Wednesday nights this week for our instrumental music students. Congratulations to all the students who performed! Thank you to all their parents for their support and encouragement - and to their teachers Peter Sharp, Helen Bourke, Alex Francis and Michelle McKinnon for their expertise and support this year.
Noorat Show Reports

Creative Writing
Sharyn Thulborn

Once again, many of our students entered the Creative Writing Section of the Noorat Show, entering short stories, poetry and stories with a maximum of fifty-five words, written in English classes throughout the year.

Several of our students had success with their entries and all students who submitted pieces of work should be congratulated for their efforts.

Prize winners were -
**Years 7 and 8 - Short Story**
1st Prize – Zachary O’Flynn
2nd Prize – Kiara Williams

**Years 7 and 8 - Poetry**
2nd Prize – Campbell Sharp
Highly Commended – Rhiannon Lumsden

**Years 7 and 8 - 55 Word Story**
1st Prize – Peter Ryan
2nd Prize – Meagan Carlin
Highly Commended – Amy Hirth

**Years 9 and 10 – Short Story**
1st Prize – Jac Domney
2nd Prize – Connor Saunders
Highly Commended – Bridget Glennen

Novelty Cakes
Sharyn Grinter

As part of a unit on Cake Making, the Year 7N at the O’Keeffe Campus entered Novelty Cakes in the Handicraft section of the Noorat Show recently.

The following students gained prizes –
Jake Carmichael and Billy Rasmussen - Fifi the Poodle
Steven Cornelissen and Tyler Evers - A Hamburger
Jacqui Dubois and Eliza Whiting - Wally the Whale
Verity Watt and Jacqui O’Brien - An Enchanted Village

Congratulations to these students. We appreciate the opportunity to display our work and thank the Handicraft Committee for their encouragement and support.

Outdoor Ed Camp
James Castles & Darren Cheeseman

The Outdoor Education students had a two night stay at Lake Elizabeth in the Otway National Park. The camp was on the 11th to the 13th of November. Otway National Park was selected as our location for the camp because it was an environment the students hadn’t experienced previously.

The students were involved in a number of different activities which helped them to learn more about themselves and of course, the environment. The highlight of the trip was canoeing with the platypus. Seeing platypus in their wild habitat is something that is very extraordinary, with one group lucky enough to see four platypus.

It was pleasing to see that all students enjoyed themselves and the company of their classmates. Looking back on the camp it was a positive experience for all students and staff involved.

We applaud the students for their effort and behaviour and wish you all well over the Christmas break.

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ACTIVE TERANG

TEEN FITNESS

For Girls in Years 7 – 12
Monday 4pm, Terang RSL Hall
A fun way to stay fit

Improve Your ...
- Fitness Level
- Flexibility
- Strength

$2 per class

For details contact
Julie Corneby on 0409951459.
Visit by Aboriginal Musicians and Dancers
On Monday, 17 November, Years 7 and 8 students were entertained by performers from the local Tarerer Festival as part of their study of Aboriginal Music. Herb Patten, the gum leaf player, a contestant on “Australia’s Got Talent” played Waltzing Matilda, then taught students how to ‘play’ the gum leaf. We know the technique, now we just have to practice! The Yarrabah Dancers, from outside Cairns, danced for us and then taught some students some dance movements. Knocking your knees together is harder than it looks! We had a didgeridoo and gum leaf duet too!

Coming Events

Friday 28th November
- Year 7-10 Study Day – no school
- Staff Professional Development Day

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

Tuesday 2nd December
- Year 7, 2009 Orientation Day
- Secondhand Uniform and Book Sale 1 – 3:30pm
- Year 7 & 8 Exams

Wednesday 3rd December
- Year 7 & 8 Exams
- Year 9 Exams
- 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
Christmas villains like Scrooge have all been part of the modern Christmas story for hundreds of years. For almost as long as we have celebrated Christmas, there have been those who want to see it stamped out. Today we have those who rail against decorations or Christmas cards or nativity plays because they may offend our multi-cultural, multi-faith society. At the other end of the spectrum, others bemoan the commercialisation of Christmas and the rampant consumerism around this important religious celebration of Jesus’ birth. Christmas also seems to herald the annual predictable complaints against the ‘secularisation of Christmas’. Sometimes we are left to wonder whether Christmas seems to attract more criticism than any other event on the annual calendar.

The fact that Christmas has survived this trenchant criticism from both sides of the fence, that it has survived our growing secularism and the fact that it is a national holiday is testimony to the fact that Christmas captures the imagination. It is true that just because people celebrate Christmas, doesn’t mean they understand it. But there is something about Christmas that touches hearts. There is something about Christmas that touches almost everybody in some way or another.

The birth of Christ in Bethlehem was meant to reach out to all people. Luke’s Gospel has the angel announcing Jesus’ birth to the shepherds:

Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10

But reactions were very different.

- Herod in anger and suspicion sought to kill the child
- Anne and Simeon joined the Angels in responding with songs of worship and praise
- The Shepherds responded with courage and daring, leaving their flocks to go and worship the child
- Visitors from the east (the Magi), travelled in curiosity and perhaps nascent faith to bring gifts
- Mary and Joseph became refugees in a foreign land.

There is a diversity in the way people respond today as well. Some will coldly ignore everything. Others will be militant in their desire to stamp out any trace of “religious meaning” from Christmas. Others just don’t like the way people celebrate this great event because it does not fit their pattern or view as to what should be done and how it should be done. But others respond in faith. It’s not how we respond but THAT we do respond. Secondly, it is not HOW we celebrate, but WHO we celebrate. Christmas declares a message of love, hope and joy to anyone and everyone who will listen. People will respond to that message in different ways. If that is by buying presents, or celebrating by holideying or partying – God bless them! That’s a start.

In the past the largely Christian culture in which we lived helped carry the faith. We lived in cultures within which faith and religion were part of the very fabric of life. Faith and church were embedded in the sociology, as it were.

But today our world is much more secularised in that the culture no longer carries the faith and the church. We simply had to look around us – we lived in communities where almost everyone seemed to believe. Almost everyone went to a church and Christian ethics and morality was the dominant force. Such communities helped carry us in our faith.

That is not so today. That’s why our celebrations of Christmas take on an added significance. In our own celebrations of the incarnation, of the birth of Jesus, what do people see? Christian witness, we are told, is the first act of evangelisation. Such witness should stir in others these basic questions:

Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? (Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 71).

So when people look at us this year, when they look at how we mark this great event, will we stir those basic questions in them? Will they wonder who it is that inspires us to act this way? The birth of Christ which we celebrate at this time is meant for everyone. It is meant to be news of great joy for everyone. So when people look at our family celebrations, the family traditions we have established, the patterns of behaviour we have created at this time, will they see people of joy and celebration, people who want all people to know about this great event. Will they see us as prayerful, looking for ways this Christmas to help others see the reason for our celebration. Or will they just see “grumps” who rail against those who celebrate in other ways or criticizing those who celebrate by buying what we consider to be too much etc. Or will we be grateful that so many people are still celebrating Christmas, that Christ still brings joy and happiness to so many, that great news is shared by all people, as the angel said.

So put up the decorations! Send the Christmas cards (sadly a dying tradition), especially to those we have not seen or heard from in a while. Celebrate and rejoice! Give generously to the annual St Vincent de Paul appeals at this time. Will your local church or school or organisation include an overseas community or family in their celebrations this year?

Will others see us as harried, complaining about having to do the shopping or prepare the meal for so many and so on and so on? Or will we be joyful and celebrate and encourage others to do the same.

Regards
Jim Quintin

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM 2009

Music Tuition is available for the following instruments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woodwind Instruments:</th>
<th>Clarinet*, Flute, Saxophone*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brass Instruments:</td>
<td>Trumpet*, Trombone*, French Horn*, Euphonium*, Tuba*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String Instruments:</td>
<td>Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Instruments:</td>
<td>Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Voice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These musical instruments may be offered in 2009 dependent on interest.

Music Tuition
Music Tuition Fees in 2009 will be $180 per semester for a group lesson or $360 per semester for an individual lesson. Please note that instrumental teachers may recommend individual lessons if students have been learning for more than two years. There will be a small additional semester charge for students participating in bands or ensembles which will be announced in 2009. Music Tuition Fees are due by Friday, 27 February 2009 for Semester 1 and by Friday, 31 July 2009 for Semester 2 and are payable to Mercy Regional College.

Hiring/Purchasing Instruments
Students need to hire or purchase instruments to participate in our instrumental music program. The school can arrange instrument hire and advise families about purchasing instruments. Hire and buying prices listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Hire Fee Per term</th>
<th>Hire Fee # Per year</th>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>RRP Price*</th>
<th>Brand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$209</td>
<td>Buffett</td>
<td>$629</td>
<td>YCL250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$209</td>
<td>Buffett</td>
<td>$674</td>
<td>YFL221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxophone</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1619</td>
<td>YAS275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$209</td>
<td>Bach</td>
<td>$629</td>
<td>YTR13335E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$209</td>
<td>Bach</td>
<td>$989</td>
<td>YSL154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Horn</td>
<td></td>
<td>$539</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2429</td>
<td>YHR314II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphonium</td>
<td></td>
<td>$755</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4499</td>
<td>YBB105S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuba</td>
<td>$929</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violin</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$188</td>
<td>S Antonio</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Stentnor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>$59</td>
<td>$198</td>
<td>S Antonio</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Stentnor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cello</td>
<td>$117</td>
<td>$360</td>
<td>S Antonio</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td>Stentnor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum Kit</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$369</td>
<td>Pearl</td>
<td>$1699+</td>
<td>Pearl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Instruments will be hired from Music Corp because they do an excellent school hire price.
- This Hire Fee covers all breakages, except strings and reeds
- They will replace an instrument promptly if it is faulty.
- Instruments can also be purchased from Music Corp after paying Hire Fees for 12 terms or 3 years, with an additional 13th term payment.
- We will endeavour to hire instruments such as Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Saxophone and Double Bass from local schools where possible to reduce the Hire Fee.

# Instruments can be purchased from music shops. These prices are from Dale Cleeves Music in Warrnambool.
- Consult your teacher about which brand to buy as the quality can vary significantly.

For further information, contact Fiona Pugh, Music Director via email fpugh@mercy.vic.edu.au or leave a message at the School Office on 5593 2011.

Please return the section below to the College office by no later than next Friday 5th December.

Enrolment Form for Music Program 2009

Student's Name: .......................................................... Please circle Individual / Group Lesson

Class: .................................................................

Instrument/s: ..........................................................

We wish to / do not wish to hire a ...................................................(Instrument)

Parent/Carer’s Name: .................................................... Tel:...........................................

Parent/Carer’s Signature: ..................................................