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

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

Our Focus for 2010
Justice and Mercy: Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Welcome Back to Term 2
Welcome back to Term 2. I hope that all families had time to reflect upon the joy of Easter and spend time resting and relaxing before a long and busy Term 2.

Our Easter period is with us until we celebrate Pentecost on May 23rd. It is important for us to remember that Easter does not finish with Easter Bunnies, or Bilbies, or Eggs, on Easter Sunday. Easter is a season to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. The triumph of life over death and the call to acknowledge our Salvation in God through Christ, but what does this mean?

For me, the Resurrection brings with it a huge sense of hope, joy and celebration. As a Catholic community, we are always offered a sense of hope, for without hope, I believe that we will flounder and wither away. With this belief we have something to strive for: we can set ourselves goals to be achieved. Through the Resurrection we can place our hope in Christ.

This Easter is a time to reflect on the hope that is required in our own lives and our society and to celebrate with joy all of those people, times and events that have had a positive influence in our lives and which have given us hope. Above all, it is a time to give thanks to our God for what we have.

Funding of Catholic School
Australia’s Catholic schools are a national asset. They currently educate one-fifth of all the nation’s school students. From 19th and early 20th century foundations across the length and breadth of the continent has sprung a diverse, yet unified, network of 1700 schools which are educating 696,000 students and employing 78,000 staff. Catholic schools reflect the cultural diversity of contemporary Australia. They have made a substantial contribution over many decades to Australian society and to the Catholic Church in Australia and overseas. They will continue to contribute to Australia's development, confident about their ongoing relationship with the contemporary Australian community.

The mission of Catholic schools is to be more than providers of high-quality education but to advance the common good of Australian society. Their belief in the ultimate intrinsic value of each student, as an individual, is based on a distinctive, educational vision inspired by the example and message of Jesus Christ. Through their culture, ethos and mission and through the commitment of their staff and their educational programs, Catholic schools demonstrate that there is no separation between learning and living the Christian life. Catholic schools teach that a life lived in the love of God and in the Christian community service of others has purpose and meaning. The 2008 Declaration on Education Goals for Young Australians recognises the importance for all young Australians of developing spiritual goals.

Since the early 1970’s Australian Catholic schools have received significant funding support from Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments. The support has enabled Catholic schools to consolidate their collective position as partners in the national educational endeavour and partners too with governments, families and church communities in achieving national education goals for young Australians. Catholic schools provide a quality education option at reasonable cost for parents from a diverse range of religious, social, cultural and economic backgrounds across the nation. To continue this
effective partnership, Australian Catholic schools need the funding support of governments. Moreover, the cost of Australian schooling increases annually as schools strive for higher standards and engage with a rapidly changing agenda.

Commonwealth Government funding support for Catholic schools is bipartisan. It has long been recognised by successive Australian governments that Catholic schools deliver value for the taxpayers’ dollar, and that Catholic schools enhance social capital and community infrastructure. In particular, successive governments have demonstrated a commitment to:

a) parental choice of schooling, including schooling based on the Catholic religious and education tradition, as a right deserving of government support;
b) all children having the right to share equitably in public expenditure on education; and
c) the equitable provision of adequate and appropriate resources to all schools.

Australian schools, both Government and non-government, are funded differentially by Governments, both Commonwealth and State/Territory. The consequent inequities in school resources across schools remains a source of national debate and concern. NCEC advocates that the time has come for an agreed settlement between Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments which defines the relative funding responsibilities of all levels of government for both Government and non-government schools.

Listed below are the Basic Funding Principles that the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), Australia’s peak Catholic education body, wishes to be applied to the current discussions with the Commonwealth and State Governments on funding of Catholic schools

**Principal 1: Parental choice**

Parental choice means that

a) In accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all Australian parents “have the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children”.
b) The right of parents to choice of schooling, including schooling based on the Catholic religious and education tradition, is a right deserving of government support.
c) Future parents must have the same capacity as current and earlier generations of parents to exercise their freedom of choice in schooling.

**Principal 2: Religious freedom**

Religious freedom for Catholic schools means that

a) Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments acknowledge the distinctive contribution Catholic schools have made, and will continue to make, to the development of Australian society, economy and culture.
b) Commonwealth and State Government funding actively supports and encourages parental freedom of school choice for their children.
c) Commonwealth and State Government funding arrangements respect the identity, integrity and autonomy of the Catholic school.
d) Catholic schools, respecting the rights of parents to choose schooling for their children in the Catholic tradition, are free to form and instruct young people in the Catholic faith and publicly celebrate the faith.
e) Funding, compliance and accountability requirements support rather than hinder or compromise the authenticity or autonomy of the Catholic school.

**Principal 3: Funding equity**

Equity means that

a) Catholic schools require a funding model that guarantees equitable access to Commonwealth and State funding - recurrent, targeted and capital.
b) Overall Commonwealth and State funding from the beginning of the next funding period will be at least equal in real terms to funding levels at the end of the current period.
c) Catholic schools require additional funding support to meet the needs of increasing numbers of Indigenous students, students with disabilities and refugee students, as well as students/schools at risk and schools serving disadvantaged communities.
d) The value of grants is maintained through annual supplementation by indexation to actual costs in government schools.
e) The capacity for Catholic State and diocesan school systems to cross-subsidise schools according to assessed local need is recognised.
f) Catholic schools have appropriate access to funds allocated for special purposes - for example, computers.

**Principal 4: Educational partnership**

Partnership means that

a) Catholic schools work on behalf of the church in partnership with parents, Commonwealth and State Governments and other education providers to deliver high quality education open to all children and young people whose parents choose Catholic schools.
b) Catholic education authorities are actively engaged in key national policy and program decision making forums.
c) Catholic schools work to implement the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians.

**Principal 5: Funding certainty**

Certainty means that

a) Catholic schools and school systems require secure, guaranteed funding that is stable and predictable over a specified future period

b) Catholic schools as a large and genuinely national enterprise, require a solid basis for funding certainty in Commonwealth legislation.

c) Catholic schools are able to account publicly for the allocation and expenditure of government funds in a transparent, coherent and comparable manner.

**Principal 6: Supporting accountability**

Accountability and reporting mean that

a) Catholic schools will report as negotiated on agreed national output/performance parameters through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) using fully comparable data.

b) Catholic schools will continue to meet agreed financial accountability requirements to governments and to parents and the church community.

c) Funding agencies recognise the responsibilities of Catholic school authorities, dioceses and religious institutes for the management of Catholic schools.

**Principal 7: A fair allocative mechanism**

The funding mechanism must guarantee that:

a) Funding allocations to Catholic schools are based on reliable, objective third-party data and mutually acceptable public criteria.

b) Specific funding for students with additional learning needs is identifiable.

c) Funding levels are indexed annually using a transparent mechanism.

d) Funding levels are reviewed and updated periodically.

e) All Catholic schools are eligible, on a needs basis, for Commonwealth and State Government capital support.

Access to State and Territory Government funding of Catholic schools is consistent across States and Territories.

Please find attached to the newsletter a press release from Mr Larry Burn, Director, Catholic Education Office, Ballarat about the school funding review announced by the Federal Government this week.

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**College Open Afternoon/Information Evening for 2011**

On Wednesday, 12th May, 2010, Mercy Regional College will hold an open afternoon and information evening. The O'Keeffe Junior Campus located at Noorat will be open from 3.30pm to 6.00pm for families to view the campus in operation. During this time families can arrive at any time and have a look at the facilities and educational programs that are offered. A light tea will be provided after 6.00pm for families who wish to go straight to Camperdown for the information session and who have travelled long distances. The information evening at the McAuley Campus located in Camperdown will commence with registrations at 7.00pm and the evening program, beginning at 7.30pm, will be followed by a tour of the Senior Campus. Please let family and friends know of this date if they are considering enrolling their son or daughter at Mercy for 2011.

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**5th Annual Mercy Dinner – Friday 21st May**

On Friday, 21st May, members of the school community will gather at the Noorat Community centre for the 5th Annual Mercy Dinner.

I am please to be able to confirm that our guest for this year will Ms Jocelyn Bignold. Jocelyn is currently the Chief Executive Officer of McAuley Community Services for Women, a ministry of the Sister of Mercy Melbourne Congregation. Also Mr Luke Bourchier and his band "Just a Drill" will perform on the evening. After Luke's very impressive "debut" at the Commencement Mass, I am sure that we will be very well entertained on the evening. Please find attached to this newsletter an invitation to attend the Dinner.

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**Mercy Regional College Board of Management**

On Tuesday, 16th March, the Annual General Meeting of the Mercy Regional College Board of Management was held. At this meeting the annual reports from the Principal, Board Chair and PTFA were presented. The meeting also formally appointed the members of the Board for 2010.

**Governors of the College**

Fr Eugene McKinnon – Parish Priest of Terang
Fr Matthew Thomas – Parish Priest of Camperdown

**Board Members for 2010**

Mr Murray Whiting (Chairperson)
Mrs Cherolyn Bullen
Mrs Jenni Lenehan
Mr Paul Marsland
Mr Gerard Ryan
Mr Michael Smart
Mrs Jane Kingston
Mrs Catherine Moloney
Mrs Rose Henry
Mr Bill Slatter (Catholic Education Office)
Dr Andrew Watson (Principal)
Calendar on College Website

The events of the next two weeks are now displayed on the College website. Please take a few minutes to look at this new feature. The College website is www.mercy.vic.edu.au

PTFA

Monday, 22nd March, the Annual General Meeting for the PTFA was held. A number of positions were able to be filled, but we are still looking for a parent who would be prepared to hold the position of President. If you are interested, please let us know. It is the hope of the PTFA that the positions on the Executive can be finalised at the next meeting.

The AGM is also the time in which the PTFA Financial Statements are presented. This statement provided below details the wonderful financial contribution the PTFA makes to the College each year. With an annual turnover of over $90,000.00 and a direct donation back to the College of $40,000.00, it is essential that the PTFA is able to continue with the support of all families. The above amount given to the College essentially means that we are able to keep our school fees affordable for all families. As all families benefit from the work of such a small number of parents, it is disappointing that more parents are not prepared to attend meetings and become active members of the association. I would urge all parents to again consider helping in any capacity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car Raffle</td>
<td>56,020.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Ball</td>
<td>14,720.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform &amp; Book Sales</td>
<td>2,694.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate Drive</td>
<td>17,560.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee Raffle</td>
<td>2,303.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>1.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drink Sales</td>
<td>629.85</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>93,929.34</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Car Raffle</td>
<td>25,814.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation Ball</td>
<td>11864.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform and Book Sale</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate Drive</td>
<td>9,215.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit Book</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>89,911.35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also at the AGM the draw for the Fee Raffle was held. Congratulations to the following people who won a prize:

- 1st Prize: 1 year’s Tuition Fees - Scott & Vanessa Wilson-Browne
- 2nd Prize: 50% of 1 year’s Tuition - Donelda & Peter Conroy
- 3rd Prize: 25% of 1 year’s Tuition - Wendy & Gerard Gleeson

HSSSA Athletics Carnival

Last week, the College excelled at the Hampden Secondary School Sports Association (HSSSA) Athletic competition, coming away with the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and overall Champions’ title once again. Congratulations to all our athletes, Mr Cheeseman, Mr Castles and the other staff who assisted with the team. An outstanding victory!

The following individual achievements were recorded on the day:

- 13 Years Male Nathan Stevens
- 15 Years Male Declan O’Connor
- 16 Years Female Olivia Duynhoven
- 17 Years Female Ashlee Dendle
- 17 Years Male Jahd Anderson

Congratulations to our age champions!

2010 Catholic Secondary Principals Australia National Conference

During the second week of the holidays, I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the National Conference for Catholic Secondary Principals held in Hobart. The conference titled Salt of the Earth and Light for the World: Sustaining life and mission in our Catholic Schools provided the opportunity for educational leaders in Catholic schools to consider ways in which schools can respond to the Pope’s call to “ecological conversion”. A key focus of the Conference was on stewardship or ecological responsibility, one of the areas identified in the Tasmanian Archbishop’s Charter for Catholic Schools in which schools and education leaders are called to carry out their evangelising mission.

The Smart Guide to Socialising on the Internet

Attached to this newsletter is a guide published by the Australian Communications and Media Authority providing information about socialising on the internet through the use of social networking websites. The guide is provided for both parents and students. Please take the time to discuss the contents of the guide with your children and establish clear guidelines on how your child should access and use social networking sites. Unfortunately, we see at school, far too often, the effects of inappropriate use and lack of parental supervision in this area.

Centacare

Centacare is more than a welfare agency, Centacare is an integral part of the work of the Diocese of Ballarat. Everyday Centacare translates the Church’s social teaching into policy and action. The staff of Centacare work to enhance people’s dignity, meet their needs, improve their lives and make a difference to society. Attached to this newsletter is a brochure from Centacare presenting the stories of hope, charity and justice. I have taken the opportunity to provide with you this information so that our community may know and share in the work of Centacare.
**Student Achievements**

Congratulations are extended to Dylan Lee, Daniel Unwin and Kayla Spicer who recently represented the Warrnambool Swimming Club at the Australian Age Swimming Championships in Sydney.

Congratulations are also extended to Xavier Darcy who has been granted a "Local Sporting Champions Grant" which was presented to Xavier, at Aquazone, on Thursday, by David Hawker.

**Along the Track**

I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 16, a reflection title "A Beautiful and Bright Day" written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

**ANZAC Day**

This Sunday, the nation celebrates ANZAC Day, the 95th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. Mercy Regional College will be represented at the various ANZAC Day services held in the region. As always our students are wonderful ambassadors for the College on this occasion.

**THE ODE**

_They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them._

As we remember all those who have fought and died for our safety we might use the following prayer

_Lord,_

_This week we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in the time of war._

_We pray that the offering of their lives may not be in vain._

_On ANZAC Day we dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice freedom and peace; and for the wisdom and strength to build a better world._

_Amen._

Andrew Watson

PRINCIPAL
Year 12 Exams - The mid semester examination timetable is provided below. All students who are studying a Unit 3&4 subject are required to sit the GAT on Thursday 10th of June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 8 June</th>
<th>9:00 am - 10:45 am</th>
<th>11:45 am - 1:30 pm</th>
<th>2:45 pm - 4:30 pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology Exam 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Physics Exam 1</td>
<td>Accounting Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 June</td>
<td>9:00 am - 10:45 am</td>
<td>11:45 am - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>2:45 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Exam 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry Exam 1</td>
<td>Environmental Science Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 June</td>
<td>10:00 am - 1:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Achievement Test (GAT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exam timetables for 7 - 11 will be made available through the newsletter in the coming weeks.

**NAPLAN**
Just a reminder The NAPLAN 2010 Tests for students in Years 7 and 9 will be held from Tuesday 11 May to Thursday 13 May 2010. Please find an outline of the tests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 11 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 12 May</th>
<th>Thursday 13 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>* 45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy ** 40 minutes x 2 (80 mins total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>* 45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy ** 40 minutes x 2 (80 mins total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* **Language Conventions** incorporates spelling, grammar and punctuation.
** **Numeracy** incorporates Number, Algebra, function and pattern, Space, Measurement, chance and data.

**CAREERS REPORT**
James Castles
Focus on careers in Science and Math

Do you enjoy Math and Science subjects at school? Have you considered pursuing a career in these areas? You may like to explore careers in Mathematics, Sciences (earth, computer, life, astrophysics and physical) and engineering.

**Mathematics**: If you are a logical and analytical person who enjoys solving problems with numbers, you may like to explore a career in Math and Statistics. Go to the following websites to find out more:
- www.mathscareers.org.au/
- www.austms.org.au/Careers

**Engineering**: If you are practical, like to know how things work and enjoy analyzing and solving problems, you should explore careers in Engineering. Check out the following sites:
- www.engineersaustralia.org.au/
- www.swinburne.edu.au/feis/

**Science**: There are several broad disciplines in Science. **Physical science** is for people who like to ask questions about why things are the way they are in the world around us. School subjects include Chemistry and Physics. **Computer science** is for people who like to understand how computers work and to learn how to develop new programs and systems. **Life sciences** is for people who like to ask questions and think about living things and covers areas such as Medicine, biology and ecology. **Astrophysics** is for people who are fascinated with the universe, stars and space exploration. **Earth science** is for people who are interested in soil, rocks, weather and the natural environment.

For more information about science careers, browse through the following links:

**APRIL EVENTS**

**MAY EVENTS**
- At Monash Seminar Series - Education, Sport & Outdoor Rec (4th), Arts (Humanities), Drama & Theatre Studies (5th), Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (11th), Architecture (12th), Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy (17th), Business & Economics (19th), Engineering (20th), Science (25th), www.monash.edu.au/atmonash
- VET For a Day Program, Healesville Sanctuary, 4th, 5th, 18th, 19th.
- See Mr Castles for entry tickets/

For more information about science careers, browse through the following links:
Meet Melbourne, Uni of Melbourne- Geelong (5th), Doncaster (12th), Dandenong (19th), Mentone (26th)
www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events

‘Focus on Melbourne’, Uni of Melbourne- Engineering (4th), Commerce (13th), Biomedicine (19th), VCAM (25th),
www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events


UMAT – Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test

Who needs to sit the UMAT?
You will need a UMAT score to apply for the following courses in 2011:
The University of Adelaide - Medicine, Dental Surgery, Oral Health
Flinders University - Clinical Sciences/BMBS, Vision Sciences
Charles Darwin University - Clinical Sciences
The University of Newcastle/University of New England - Joint Medical Program
The University of New South Wales - Medicine, Optometry
University of Western Sydney - Medicine
Bond University - Medicine
The University of Queensland - Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science
Monash University - Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmacy/Commerce, Physiotherapy
The University of Melbourne - Oral Health (Therapy or Hygiene)
La Trobe University - Health Sciences (Dentistry), Oral Health Science
University of Tasmania – Medicine
The University of Western Australia - Medicine (undergraduate-entry only), Dental Science
Register online at http://umat.acer.edu.au

DOXA YOUTH FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS 2011

The Doxa Cadetship program provides opportunities for disadvantaged young people by investing in education related programs that help them achieve their full potential. Doxa works with schools to seek applications from students to the Cadetship Program. In addition to being disadvantaged, cadets must also have displayed leadership abilities and talents during their secondary education. (Disadvantaged can mean living in the country, slower internet connection etc).

A Doxa cadet receives:
- Financial support - $6,000 per year
- Assistance with purchasing university textbooks
- 8 weeks of work placement with a sponsor company, along with a mentor
- Personal and professional development program
- Doxa cadets are given the opportunity to gain an extensive experience in the business community. Through the program Cadets will develop their skills and be in a position to apply what they learn at university to work. On graduation, Doxa Cadets have a competitive edge.
- A suit to prepare them for professional working life
- Ongoing support from human resources professionals to develop essential work skills
- Personal support from a professional counsellor as required

To be eligible for a Doxa Cadetship, applicants must:
- Be a current Year 12 student who will commence university studies in the following year (Deferring students will not be eligible)
- Hold Australian citizenship

Degree Programs most suited to a cadetship are:
Bachelor of Commerce,
Bachelor of Arts (Global),
Bachelor of Laws,
Bachelor of Arts (New Generation),
Bachelor of Business (Accounting)
Bachelor of Engineering
Bachelor of HR Management
Bachelor of Business & Commerce
Bachelor of Science
Bachelor of Finance

More information will be provided in August.

Three ex students from Mercy Regional College have already been awarded this scholarship and all have gained very rewarding jobs as a result of this program.

GET SMART ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Thousands of dollars in scholarship money goes to waste each year because nobody applies for them. Many rural students tend to self-select out of applying for scholarships because they don't think they match the criteria or don't even bother to look at it because they feel they don't meet the profile of someone eligible. Mr Vince Callaghan from Warrnambool has written a book “Get Smart Guide” aimed at informing university students of scholarship help and the latest Youth Allowance changes. Mr Callaghan’s guide to university, scholarships and financial guide is available online at www.asg.com.au
Catholic All Schools Swimming
Kiara Williams

On Tuesday, 23rd March, 26 of our students went to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatics Centre to compete in the 2010 Catholic All Schools Swimming Sports. We left at 5:20am from Terang then headed over to Camperdown to pick up the remaining students. We were all not quite awake as we all headed off to Melbourne to swim against the best of the Catholic school swimmers in the state.

When we arrived, those of us who wanted to have a warm-up before the races began got changed and went down to the pool to swim a few laps. After that the races began and we sat in the stands and cheered for our swimmers. We had a few winners and all swimmers raced their very best no matter what place they came.

Congratulations to Daniel Unwin, Kayla Spicer and Dylan Lee who were champions of their age groups and a special congratulations to Dylan Lee, who broke two records on the day, 50 and 100m Backstroke, and Daniel Unwin, who also broke the 100m Freestyle record.

Mercy Regional College came third overall in the green division (schools with 400-900 students) and were just one point off second place. Well done to all students who competed.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday 25th April
ANZAC Day

Monday 26th April
ANZAC Day Public Holiday - no classes

Wednesday 28th April
Keys Please Information Evening (7.30pm)

Monday 3rd May
Catholic Education Week commences
PTFA Meeting @ 7.30pm McAuley Campus
commencing at 7.30pm)

Friday 7th May
Catholic Education Week concludes

Tuesday 11th May
NAPLAN Tests

Wednesday 12th May
MRC OPEN AFTERNOON/EVENING commencing at
3.30pm at O’Keeffe Campus for tours and BBQ Tea.
7.00pm at McAuley Campus for Registration,
Information session and tours.
NAPLAN Tests

Thursday 13th May
NAPLAN Tests

Monday 17th May
HSSSA Cross Country

Tuesday 18th May
Board Meeting @ 7.30pm

Friday 21st May
MERCY DINNER 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Noorat
Community Centre

Monday 24th May
Mercy Feast Day - Our Lady Help of Christians
(Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Connors at
9.30am de Chantal Stadium, Camperdown)

Tuesday 1st June
Grade 6 Transition Day 1 @ O’Keeffe Campus
Year 8 Retreat Day

Monday 7th June
PTFA Meeting @ 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus

Tuesday 8th June
VCE Exams

Wednesday 9th June
VCE Exams
Year 7 & 8 Exams

Thursday 10th June
General Achievement Test (GAT)
Year 7, 8 & 10 Exams

Friday 11th June
Report Writing Day - no students

Monday 14th June
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

Tuesday 15th June
Year 9 & 11 Exams

Wednesday 16th June
Year 9 & 11 Exams

Thursday 17th June
Year 11 Exams

Wednesday 23rd June
Ministry Retreat (Melbourne)

Thursday 24th June
Ministry Retreat (Melbourne)

Friday 25th June
Term 2 concludes
**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

The school photographs have been distributed. If there are any queries, parents are requested to contact ARTHUR REED PHOTOS directly on:
- Phone: 5243 4390
- Email: customerservice@arphotos.com.au

**WIN A $100 VISA GIFT CARD**

The College is embarking on a new Wellbeing Initiative—On-line Counselling. As well as the current system of meeting with our counsellors, students will be able to click a link on the College site and make an appointment, chat on-line to one of our two student counsellors, or access services outside of the College or school hours.

To make the site more attractive we are offering a prize to the student who designs a logo/ character/ etc that could become the voice/ image etc of the site.

You are limited only by your imagination!!!

Please email entries to hkenna@mercy.vic.edu.au by next Friday, 30 April

**Good luck!**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Villa Maria Reunion 1970 – 1980**

St Francis Xavier College Ballarat East

School Reunion / Back to of past students, parents, Sisters of Mercy and staff between 1970 and 1980.

**Date:** 17th July 2010

at St. Francis Xavier Primary School, Fortune St., Ballarat East.

Don’t Miss The Opportunity!!!

For further details and invitations please contact:
- Patrick Pierce 0408 182285
- Leonie (Eva) McCarthy 03 5334 4923
- Francis (O’Brien) Powlett 0417 310817

Email: patrickpierce@themortgagegallery.com.au

**PAINT THE TOWN – CAMPERDOWN**

Make Art in a Day between 8am – 4pm

Saturday 1st May 2010

In the historic town precinct of Camperdown.

1st prize: $500 cash

2nd prize: $50 gift voucher Camperdown Picture Framing

Young Artists 12-18 yrs: $50 cash

Children Under 12: 1st prize courtesy of Camperdown Newsagency.

For entry forms and information: Phone Fiona Morris on 5593 3883 or Email: gnotuk2@bigpond.com

**From the Welfare Coordinator**

*Kerin Glennen*

**Cyber safety for all:**

Social networking happens on a variety of services like YouTube, MySpace, Facebook and Twitter. These web sites allow users to creat profiles, communicate with others and form networks of friends. Users can participate in a range of activities including chatting, sharing information and photos and posting comments in forums, blogs or discussion groups. Different social networking sites have different purposes, including to:

- Create communities of friends: My Space and Bebo
- Create and down load video content: YouTube and Google Video
- Sharing still photos: Facebook and Flickr

However, when inappropriate information appears on a social networking website, users can contact the Website Administrator to request that the offensive content is removed. Social networking sites generally have policies about unacceptable content, restricting content that users are allowed to upload. For example, some sites limit false profiles, content containing nudity and that which presents violence. Website administrators generally rely on complaints from users in identifying unacceptable content, though this can be difficult to monitor because large quantities of content are posted every day.

Users can complain to the ACMA about offensive or illegal material including text, photographs or videos. The ACMA may take action if the material meets the criteria for prohibited content. Complaints regarding content can be made to [www.acma.gov.au/hotline](http://www.acma.gov.au/hotline).

Parents can:

- Set house rules about when children can give out or share personal information such as name, address or mobile number.
- Advise children to set profiles to “private” so that only people they want to see it can.
- Encourage children to think before they put ANYTHING ON LINE, information posted online can be there indefinitely.
- Report to the ACMA any material suspected to be prohibited.
- Report any inappropriate content on a website…violence, nudity etc
- Parents can relocate the computer to the “family area” of the house and not in a student’s bedrooms
- Visit the Cybersmart website for more support for more tips regarding information on social networking.

All to often we read the local press about cyber bulling. We all need to aware of what we can do to keep our family safe from such a scourge which can do a great deal of harm to those who get caught up in it. The Net is a fine tool that has assisted us in so many areas, but it is not anything more than a tool and should be used for the benefit of our community.
Sports Report
Mr James Castles
HSSSA Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to our Athletics Team who competed at the H.S.S.S.A Athletics Carnival which were held at Frederick Street Camperdown on Tuesday 13th of April. Mercy Regional College fielded a very strong team based on performances from the House Athletics Sport we were able to win the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and the Overall Shield. Well done to all students, staff, and parents for making the day a success.

OVERALL TOTAL

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"Keys Please" is a short, 90 minute session aimed at helping you, the Learner Driver, enjoy the learning-to-drive experience, pass your Licence tests and become a safe and competent driver. At the same time it will help your supervising drivers (parents, older brothers/sisters, uncles, aunts, whoever) tackle this job with confidence while avoiding the stress that sometimes be a part of it. It has been run at our school for a few years now, with great success. Everybody who attends comes away saying they've learnt something - and had a laugh!

Learning to drive should be fun, an exciting time – not a scary or dull chore. We’ll show you how to make the most of it.

Multi Purpose Area, Mercy Regional College - Wednesday, 28 April, 2010 at 7.30 pm. 
Prizes. Free pizza and coke. All we need is you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
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**NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR UNIFORM SHOP**
The uniform shop can now be contacted directly by email. The address is uniform@mercy.vic.edu.au

Parents can also place an order for particular uniform items by using the form on the back of this page. Payment can also be made by using credit card. Cheques to be made payable to Fashion Clubwear.

**MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE SCHOOL UNIFORM PRICE LIST 2010**

**BOYS UNIFORM**

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**NORMAL SHOP TRADING HOURS DURING TERM**

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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Mercy Regional College Uniform Shop

Fashion Clubwear
Contact: Katrina Boyd
E-Mail: uniform@mercy.vic.edu.au

Name: ........................................................................ Date: ..............

Telephone: (H)........................................... (M)...........................................

Email: ....................................................

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Payment Method

☐ Cheque.   Payable to Fashion Clubwear

☐ Cash

☐ Mastercard / Visa

Card Number:

.................................................................

Expiry Date: ...... / ........ Signature: .................................................................
**Unit 3 Biology & Chemistry Excursion**

Students from Unit 3 Biology and Chemistry classes participated in practical activities at Gordon TAFE in Geelong last week. The Biology class investigated the world of bacteria, using staining techniques to identify which bacteria respond to particular antibiotics and therefore how doctors determine which antibiotics would be suitable to fight particular infections. They also tested the effectiveness of commercial cleaning products, sanitising creams, disinfectants and antiseptics to classify which product is the most effective at eliminating bacterial growth. The results were surprising, especially in terms of how they are commercially marketed and let’s just say there is nothing wrong with a bit of Savlon! The Gram stains produced by the Biology students to classify bacteria were excellent and our students were highly commended on their laboratory skills.

The purpose of this visit for the Chemistry students was to enable them to see first hand some of the equipment that is available to analyse the chemical composition of a range of substances. They used a Visible Spectrophotometer to analyse the amount of aspirin in two different commercial products and watched demonstrations involving Atomic and Mass Spectrometry and Gas Chromatography. The principles and applications of these techniques is part of Outcome One for this unit and the practical work undertaken on this excursion forms part of their School Assessed Coursework. The excursion provided the students with practical experiences that are not available in a school laboratory and the opportunity to increase their understanding of this section of the course.
School funding review welcomed but questions remain

The Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Ballarat, Larry Burn, today welcomed the Federal Government’s proposal for the school funding review.

“I welcome the inclusion of all schools and sectors and all sources of funding,” Mr Burn said.

“On average Victorian Catholic schools operate on just 63% of the recurrent government resources available to Victorian government schools. Despite recent welcome increases, compared to other states and territories, Victorian Government funding for Catholic schools remains amongst the lowest available.

“Unfortunately, there’s still uncertainty which will not reassure parents and schools. The school funding guarantee leaves Catholic schools with more questions than answers. The Deputy Prime Minister’s proposal means that after 2012 Catholic schools in Victoria may receive no funding to keep pace with increasing costs.

“Capital funding after 2012 for new schools is already under a cloud. Catholic schools do not want similar doubts surrounding their core funding from 2013.

“Basic costs in such areas as teacher provision, technology, facilities and curriculum materials, may not be covered for Catholic schools by Ms Gillard’s funding guarantee. Given current levels of government funding, Catholic school communities will wonder why current resource levels with indexation cannot be assured.”

Mr Burn said Catholic schools educate students from diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds. “Catholic schools and parents need the certainty that government funding will be fair and equitable for all and increase with indexation linked to government school costs.

“We welcome the additional focus on students with disabilities but this attention should not be at the expense of general government funding.

“Catholic education looks forward to working constructively through the funding review for the benefit of every Australian child. Hopefully, the lack of certainty on capital and recurrent funding in Ms Gillard’s speech can be addressed in the coming months.”

Further information from Peter Kerwan, Catholic Education Office, Ballarat, on 5337 7123 or 0407 867 618.
St John Chrysostom, in a sermon preached 1600 years ago, described Easter Sunday as a ‘beautiful and bright’ day. How could he possibly know that, unless he was talking about what it meant for us? What happened on that day, in a very real sense, still lives with us today. It has inspired women and men over century after century, in cultures and times and circumstances varying in extraordinary ways. It has also been a stumbling block for others.

Few could dispute that the life and death of Jesus are historical facts. The challenge, however, is that two thousand years or so after this man from Nazareth mysteriously vanished from a heavily fortified tomb in Jerusalem, we don’t know what happened exactly. The resurrection still requires a leap of faith.

At the time, some said it never really happened. Others said that the disciples stole the body. Others over the years, even in very recent times have suggested that Jesus didn’t die – the ‘drink’ given to him during those final hours of agony made him ‘swoon’ – he didn’t die but recovered, married Mary Magdalene and went to live in India or France or somewhere. The poet William Blake asked:

And did those feet in ancient time,
Walk upon England’s mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On England’s pleasant pastures seen?

Why so many theories – because it is so hard to accept. Nothing like this has ever happened before or since. It defies the laws of nature. Its importance, however, is underscored by St Paul’s words, “If Christ be not risen, our preaching has no substance and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor 15:14).

But isn’t it true that the Gospels record first hand accounts of sightings of Jesus after his death? After the resurrection, Jesus’ tomb was empty. He was seen around Jerusalem. People could touch him, he ate food with them by the lake. Two disciples spent the day with him on the road to Emmaus. He was not just an apparition. These are events that happened to real people at a real place and time. On the other hand, it was a challenge to even his closest followers. Even his disciples were confused. Why did he have to die in the first place? When the woman discovered the empty tomb and came to tell Peter and the others, there was a reluctance to go and see for themselves. Some hurried away from the tomb in confusion, not wanting to confront the question at all. Thomas was much more pragmatic – he demanded to actually see and touch Jesus’ wounds before he would believe. There’s people like that today too. They demand to know exactly what happened. Others were indifferent, uninterested just like today and still others grasped in some way what had happened, hardened their hearts against it, and tried to destroy its truth. Only some understood Jesus’ triumph over death and it changed their lives.

The resurrection does not force itself on anybody but rather invites us to believe. It did then and it still does today. The Gospel according to Mark is different from the other synoptic Gospels in its account of the resurrection in that what is believed to be the original version of this Gospel ends without any evidence of Jesus after the empty tomb. The women who went to bathe Jesus in the oils witnessed the resurrection only through the empty tomb. They were given comforting knowledge of Jesus’ presence going before them from the angel, and they were told to go and deliver the news to Peter and the other disciples. However, they told no one.

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them;
and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16:8

Such an ending does not give us much evidence to justify our faith in this incredible event. This ending simply leaves us to decide on our own. It leaves us with the option of faith.

The author of the original Mark wants us to focus on the responsibility of being disciples of Christ. The author highlights the fact that our discipleship is based not on evidence, but on faith. Just as the women who visited the tomb and the other disciples in Mark, we have no physical evidence of Jesus’ resurrection for our own personal faith. Yet, we choose to believe and have faith in something we cannot prove and did not witness.

As Christians, belief in the Resurrection of our Saviour, that miraculous and beautiful event on that ‘beautiful and bright day’ which St John Chrysostom spoke of 1,600 years ago, is a choice. We choose to believe it. We are not alone. Millions of people in our time claim that something that happened 2000 years ago has caused them to be resurrected in their lives, resurrected in their marriages, resurrected in their homes, and resurrected in their communities. Most importantly, in deciding to dare to actually believe, we are charged as a people of faith to spread this great news, the news of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Regards
Jim Quillnan

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A Beautiful and Bright Day 13 April 2010
INVITATION

Open Afternoon & Information Evening

On Wednesday 12\textsuperscript{th} May 2010 Mercy Regional College will hold an open afternoon and information session.

The O’Keeffe Junior Campus, McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat will be opened from 3.30pm to 6.00pm for families to view the campus in operation. During this time families can arrive at any time and have a look at the facilities and educational programs that are offered. A light tea will be provided after 6.00pm for families who wish to go straight to Camperdown for the information session and who have travelled long distances.

The information evening will commence with registration at 7.00pm and the evening program beginning at 7.30pm followed by a tour of the McAuley Senior Campus, Henderson Street, Camperdown.

Open Afternoon @
O’Keeffe Junior Campus, Noorat
Families are welcomed to view the Campus in operation at any time from 3.30pm – 6.00pm

(a light tea will be provided after 6.00pm for families who wish to travel onto Camperdown)

Information Evening @
McAuley Senior Campus, Camperdown
7.00pm Registration
7.30pm Information Session followed by tour
Cordially invites

Parents

to the fifth
Annual Mercy Dinner

to be held on
Friday 21st May, 2010
at the

Noorat Community Centre
McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat

Featuring

Jocelyn Bignold
CEO of McAuley Community Services for Women
(a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy)

&

Band “Just a Drill” featuring Mr Luke Bourchier

The Dinner will commence at 7.00pm with
pre dinner drinks and savouries
followed by a sumptuous two-course meal and
featuring performances from “Just a Drill”.

Cost $ 45.00 per head

RSVP to Sue by Friday 14th May, 2010 on 5593 2011 or email
sue@mercy.vic.edu.au