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

Catholic Education Week
We commenced Catholic Education Week last Friday with the theme “Called to Bring Hope”. Our Bishop, Peter Connors, writes the following:

Spirit of God, with joy we celebrate your loving presence in our lives; with hope we know that your love will transform our world. We believe that peace will come, justice can be realised, compassion will endure, forgiveness is possible. We commit ourselves to following the example of Jesus Christ as we strive to bring your transforming love to others. We pray that we may be signs of Joy and Hope.

It is very appropriate that we celebrate Catholic Education Week during the season when we rejoice in the victory of Jesus Christ, Our Risen Lord and Saviour. On every occasion that Jesus met with his friends after his resurrection, he told them to share with others the Good News that he has conquered sin and death.

Catholic Education provides the key to a full and meaningful life for our students. It also empowers them to give an account for the hope that was placed within them at their Baptism.

We want them to develop a sense of optimism and confidence that they are destined for happiness which flows from the living out the Beatitudes taught by Jesus Christ to his first disciples (cf Matthew 5:1-12).

During this week all who are privileged to be involved in the work of Catholic Education, and in particular parents and teachers, will renew our commitment to the all important task of forming the next generation of those who are called to be the light of the world.

Peter Connors - Bishop of Diocese of Ballarat

The Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Ballarat Mr Larry Burn writes:

Catholic schools have been established in the Diocese of Ballarat from humble beginnings on the goldfields through to the most recently established school, in the City of Ballarat, just three years ago. Parents continue to entrust their children to Catholic schools because they find there an education which nourishes both body and spirit and teaches within a moral framework which places the care and concern for others at the centre of human living.

The Catholic vision of life nurtures in young people all aspects of living. The teachings of Jesus Christ as we find them in the Bible and in life of the Church are proposed to young people as the foundation which will sustain them throughout life.

Catholic schools teach across all curriculum learning areas and place an emphasis on developing the individual gifts of each student.

Mr Larry Burn
Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Ballarat
Funding Review of Catholic Schools

On 15 April, 2010, the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, announced that a review of school funding arrangements will commence in 2010 and conclude in 2011. This is the first time since 1973 that funding arrangements for all schools have been reviewed. The review will draw from the best available evidence from Australia and around the world. The aim of the process is to be fair and transparent and not advantage one system over another.

All Australians, with an interest in school funding, will be given the opportunity to contribute and build the strongest possible platform for long-term investment and improvements in educational outcomes beyond 2012. The review will examine all funding to all schools. The review will be transparent, open and consultative. As a first step, the Australian Government will be consulting on the terms of reference for the review, before moving into the review itself, later in the year.

Further information on the consultations and how you can participate in the review will be published in the coming weeks. A discussion paper and draft terms of reference will be available on this website by the end of April.

On 30th April, 2010, the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, announced the expert panel leading the Review of Funding for Schooling and released the draft terms of reference and a discussion paper.

The panel of eminent Australians will be lead by Chairman, David Gonski AC, an eminent businessman and philanthropist, who is also the Chancellor of the University of NSW and chairman of the Australian Securities Exchange, Coca-Cola Amatil and Investec Bank.

The panel will also include Ken Boston AO, the former Director-General Department of Education and Training (NSW); Carmen Lawrence, former Federal Minister and Premier of WA and current Professorial Fellow in the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Western Australia; Kathryn Greiner AO, current Deputy Chancellor at Bond University and chairman of Australian Hearing; and Peter Tannock AM, noted international educationalist and former Vice-Chancellor at University of Notre Dame Australia.

The discussion paper will provide Australians with information about how schools are currently funded; issues that may influence future funding and questions that could inform the scope of the review. It also includes a draft Terms of Reference. These draft terms of reference will be open for comment from the education sector until the end of May. Once the terms of reference are settled and approved, everyone with an interest in schooling will have the opportunity to contribute their views and address the terms of reference.

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.

Acting Deputy Principal

Mr. Kerin Glennen commences 14 weeks of Long Service Leave today. He will return to the College on 31st August. We wish Kerin well for his break and trust he will have safe travels. Mrs. Lisa Pope will be Acting Deputy Principal in Kerin's absence. I thank Lisa for taking on the responsibility of this important position.

MRC Cross Country

On Thursday, 22nd, the College held the Annual Cross Country event, using the Terang/Noorat Walking Track.

The winning house was Frayne achieving 215 points.

Congratulations to all our runners, Mr Castles and the other staff who assisted with the event.

The following individuals were the Age Champions for 2010.

13 Years Male Nathan Stevens
Female Haylee Davis
14 Years Male Dermott O'Connor
Female Amy Pemberton
15 Years Male Declan O'Connor
Female Libby Steele
16 Years Male Tom Moloney
Female Jocelyn McDonald
17 Years Male Abe Robertson
Female Meagan Carlin
18 Years Male Xavier Gstrein
Female Lauren Carlin

Congratulations to Frayne House and our Age Champions!
### National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Our Year 7 & 9 students will participate in the National Literacy and Numeracy Testing (NAPLAN) to be held from the 11th -13th May, according to the timetable in the next column.

### Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Tuesday 11th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 12th May</th>
<th>Thursday 13th May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 students undertake two numeracy tests. Calculators are permitted to be used in one of these tests only</td>
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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 pleased to be able to confirm that our guest for this year will be 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.

### Feast Day Mass

On Monday, 24th May, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, the College celebrates its Feast Day. Our Lady Help of Christians was chosen as our Patron Saint in 1973 upon the establishment of the then Catholic Regional College.

To celebrate our Feast Day, Bishop Peter Connors will celebrate Mass, in the de Chantal Stadium, at 9.30am on Monday, 24th May. All families are invited to attend Mass followed by morning tea in the MPA.

In the afternoon, after a BBQ lunch, our students will enjoy the inaugural Mercy Regional College Battle of the Bands.

### Digital Education Revolution

Last year, the College received funding from the National Secondary School Computer Fund for the replacement and installation of 88 new computers.

I am pleased to advise that this replacement and installation has now been completed with a new computer lab operating at the McAuley Campus and new computers be placed in the existing labs. Work continues on the development of a second computer lab for the O’Keeffe Campus.

The funds for this work have been provided to us as part of the Federal Government Digital Education Revolution funding program. Later in the year additional funds will be received to provide for laptop computers to be placed at each campus.

### Donation for Mercy Dinner Raffle

This year a Raffle will be conducted during the Mercy Dinner. If any parents who have a holiday house and would be happy to offer a weekend away as a raffle prize, please contact myself at the College office.

### Along the Track

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

### Mother's Day

This Sunday, we will celebrate Mother's Day. We will remember the work mothers do and the life and wisdom they share with their families.

Let us pray for our mothers and for the generations of mothers before them.

---

Andrew Watson

PRINCIPAL
From the Welfare Coordinator
Kerin Glennen

What are teenagers doing online?

The internet continues to be a valuable tool for study and research for teenagers. At the same time, they start to become more independent and self-assured, wanting more freedom and coming under more peer influence. Some may challenge the use of filtering software and attempt to access material that is not required by them. The use of their internet includes school research, job applications and conversing with their peers.

Adolescents accessing the internet may be confronted with material that is disturbing or inappropriate. Although there are technological measures that can be adopted to minimise the risks. Other strategies, including educating adolescents, as soon as possible, about not only the benefits but also the dangers of the net.

Some of the potential dangers for adolescents include:

- Exposure to inappropriate material
- Physical Danger
- Students being aware that all those using the chat room are who they say they are
- Harassment and bullying
- Exploitation
- Spam
- Viruses

Internet technologies, such as email, chat rooms and electronic conferencing are fast, easy and effective means of communication and sharing information. The internet enables devices, including mobile and camera phones and personal digital assistant (PADs) can also be used for text messaging and exchanging photographs or videos.

Year 10A Community Visiting
This week sees our Year 10A students entering Week 2 of their community visiting. The students will be visiting Merinda Lodge, David Newman Centre, Sunnyside, St Patrick’s, St Vinnies, St Thomas’, Cooinda-Terang Campus and the May Noonan Centre. If the stories from last week are to go by, the program has been received positively, not only by the students, but by those who are being visited.

ANZAC Day celebrations
Last week, several ANZAC marches and ceremonies were commemorated throughout our region. I would like to thank our students, both senior and junior classes, who attended and assisted in making the day so special for so many.

Thank you also to the staff who attended and assisted our students throughout the day.

NOTICE
Re: Central Australia Tour
There are five positions available for the trip to Central Australia in September this year. If any students are interested they can make an appointment with Sue to see Mr. Watson.

INVITATION
Mercy Regional College
INFORMATION DAY
Open Afternoon
@ O’Keeffe Junior Campus, Noorat.
Families are welcome to view the Campus in operation between 3.30pm - 6.00pm
(a light tea will be provided after 6.00pm for families who wish to travel to Camperdown)

Information Evening
@ McAuley Senior Campus, Camperdown.
7.00pm Registration
7.30pm Information Session.
Followed by a tour of the College.
From the Director of Teaching & Learning

Career News
Lisa Pope & James Castles

Upcoming Events

Interested in health careers? The Health@Melbourne Expo on Friday 7 May offers students the opportunity to find out more about professional careers in health. Find out all you need to know about the University of Melbourne’s New Generation degrees: Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPhysio). The Expo features 30 exhibitor booths and students and industry professionals will be on hand to give insights into degrees and university life.

The speaker program includes inspiring presentations, specialist talks and lectures from their research affiliates, partners and faculty leaders on a broad range of topics, including graduate coursework information, obstetrics and gynecology, Indigenous health, neuroscience, youth mental health, advances in new technologies for oral disease and global health. For more information, go to www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

JMC Academy Open Day: Are you interested in studying Film and Television, Digital Media or Music? You should consider attending the JMC Academy Open Day on 8 May at their Melbourne Campus, 171 Bank St, South Melbourne. You can attend a session at either 11am or 2pm. You must register at www.jmcacademy.edu.au or you can phone 6969 4117

Pivot Point 2 Day Introductory Course in Hair Design: Pivot Point are running two day programs on 8 and 9 July and 14 and 15 July at their Melbourne Campus. You will learn about careers in hairdressing, hands on styling, drying and long hair techniques, introduction to cutting, introduction to colour and client relations and people skills. Cost is $99. For more information go to www.pivot-point.com.au or call 9670 1200

May Events

- **At Monash Seminar Series** - Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (11), Architecture (12), Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy (17), Business & Economics (19), Engineering (20), Science (25), www.monash.edu.au/atmonash
- **VET for a Day Program**, Healesville Sanctuary, 18, 19.
  www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student_Conferences/Careers
- **Meet Melbourne, Uni of Melbourne** - Doncaster (12), Dandenong (19), Mentone (26)
  www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events
- **Focus on Melbourne**, Uni of Melbourne - Commerce (13), Biomedicine (19), VCAM (25), www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events
- **26: Vocational College Information Session**, Holmesglen, Moorabbin Campus, vocational.college@holmesglen.edu.au
- **30th May: Glenormiston College** (South West TAFE) Open Day 10am - 4pm

Work Experience

Find out more about surveying! Students in years 10 - 12 can apply for work experience in the growing area of surveying. Surveying suits students who enjoy Maths, Science and IT and who like working outdoors. To find out about surveying, go to www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au and see your work experience coordinator about opportunities

The ADF Gap Year Program

The ADF Gap Year program is accepting applications from the 1st to 31st May 2010 for the 2011 intake of candidates for Navy or Army only. The Air Force Gap Year program has been suspended. Applications must be received online. Please refer to this site from the 1st May 2010 to start the application process.


To view future careers days/dates please refer to the college website
www.mercy.vic.edu.au/careers

Deakin University – Warrnambool

Want A Great Career Where You Live – 4th June 2010 - 9.45am -3.20pm (Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Doctor, Physiotherapy) Applications close 19th May. Enquiries: Pat Nesbit or Kelly McDonald at Deakin on 5563 3235.

A careers evening will be held by Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre at the new Melbourne Rectangular Stadium Melbourne on Friday 28th May at 7.30pm Cost $25.00 per student. Registration closed 21st May. Enquiries: Alane Hillbrich 9420 4312 or opsmc@opsmc.com.au
Recently I had the opportunity to attend information sessions regarding the Australian Curriculum. As stated by ACARA “In 2008 all Australian governments agreed that a quality education for all young Australians is critical to maintaining Australia’s productivity and quality of life. They agreed that a national curriculum would play a key role in delivering quality education and committed to the development of a K–12 national curriculum, initially in the areas of English, mathematics, science and history.”

The development of the Australian Curriculum in the first phase includes English, Mathematics, Science and History. The second phase will see the development of Geography, Arts and Languages, followed by a third phase involving the rest of the curriculum, such as Health and Physical Education, Information and communication technology, Economics, Business and Civics and citizenship.

All stakeholders, including parents, are encouraged to take part in providing feedback on the Australian Curriculum. You can view the draft K–10 Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History online at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au) where it is available for public feedback. You simply login by providing your email address and a password. If this timeline is met, it is expected that the new Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History will then be introduced in all Victorian schools and providers for students in P – 10 in 2012. This includes the new content and achievement standards and associated reporting of student achievement. It is expected that the other phases of curriculum implementation will follow in stages in the subsequent years afterwards.

For Years 11 and 12, it is expected that new Australian curriculum-based VCE courses in the subject areas of English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History will be introduced at Units 1 and 2 in 2013 and Units 3 and 4 in 2014.

At this stage, it is expected that current VCE studies that substantially duplicate the new Australian curriculum subjects will be replaced by the new Australian curriculum subjects. There are no current plans to discontinue any VCE studies other than those covered by the new Australian curriculum subjects.

The Forums have encouraged all stakeholders in education to login and view the drafts and where you feel add appropriate provide feedback. Whilst the teachers at Mercy have begun to look at the Australian Curriculum, it also important that our parents feel they have the opportunity to have input and we encourage you to do so.
Dear Parents,

This Term the PTFA will be running a Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser.

The school has run this particular fundraiser for a few years now and it has proven to be very successful in raising money for the College. Chocolates were distributed this week to the youngest child in each family.

There are 48 chocolate bars in each box @ $1.20 each. Money received from the sale of your chocolates and any unsold chocolates are to be returned to the College office in the envelope provided by no later than -

Friday 4th June

For every family who sells all the 48 chocolate bars in their box, your name will go into a draw to win a $200 Gift Card.

I appreciate the fact that all our families sell as many chocolate bars as they can and this, in turn, will help the PTFA in their fundraising activities which ultimately benefit all our students at Mercy Regional College.

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL
MRC Cross-Country
Mercy Regional College completed our Annual Cross-Country event on April 22nd 2010. The venue was the Terang/Noorat Walking Track. This proved to be a good location to cater for all abilities. The results from the day saw Frayne house winning, with 215 points from Markey 199 points, Tindley third on 197 points and Ryan fourth on 182 points. That has made it a clean sweep for Frayne House in 2010 winning the Swimming Sports, Athletic Sports and now the Cross Country. Congratulations to Amy Henry and Luke Mahony for their leadership and the rest of the Frayne Army for their efforts in 2010.

The overall age group champions and their times are listed below along with our 2008 winners. Well done to all the students who took part in the event and thank you to all the staff members who assisted with the day. It was also great to see parents there supporting their children.

The HSSSA Inter-school Cross-Country will be held Monday 17th May. It will be a very good challenge for all students who will represent MRC.

AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Winners</th>
<th>2009 Winners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Female: Haylee Davis - F - (23.45)</td>
<td>Mamie Jones - Tindley (24.36 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Male: Nathan Stevens - M - (23.30)</td>
<td>Ben Saunders - Frayne (22.08 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Female: Amy Pemberton - R - (24.57)</td>
<td>Libby Steele - Tindley (23.58mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Male: Dermott O’Connor - R - (22.30)</td>
<td>Declan O’Connor - Ryan (21.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Female: Libby Steele - T - (27.19)</td>
<td>Caitlyn Hickey - Tindley (24.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Male: Declan O’Connor - R - (23.00)</td>
<td>Brendan Richardson - Tindley (21.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Female: Jocelyn McDonald - F - (25.02)</td>
<td>Elise Bant - Tindley (33.42 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Male: Tom Moloney - R - (20.31)</td>
<td>Jahd Anderson - Markey (20.04)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Female: Meagan Carlin - M - (24.53)</td>
<td>Stephanie Jamieson - Ryan (24.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Male: Abe Robertson - M - (19.23)</td>
<td>Xavier Gstrein - Tindley (19.44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Female: Lauren Carlin - M - (24.45)</td>
<td>Georgia Muir - Markey (23.34 mins)</td>
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**Mercy Regional College Uniform Shop**  
**Fashion Clubwear**

**Contact:** Katrina Boyd  
**Email Address:** uniform@mercy.vic.edu.au

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<tr>
<th>Parent Name:</th>
<th>Date: <em><strong>/</strong></em>/___</th>
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**Payment Methods:**
- [ ] Cheque, [payable to Fashion Clubwear]  
- [ ] Cash  
- [ ] Credit Card  
- [ ] Mastercard  
- [ ] Visa  

Card Number: [___________]  
Expiry Date: [___ / ___]  
Signature: ____________________

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8
Cordially invites

Our Parent Community

to the fifth

Annual Mercy Dinner

Friday 21st May, 2010

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.
Drinks are available at Bar prices.

Please reserve your table early to avoid disappointment, as there are only limited numbers available.

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Please return this section ONLY to the College office with payment.

Mercy Regional College 5th Annual Mercy Dinner

I wish to purchase □ tickets at $45.00 per person to attend the dinner Total $ _____________

Please reserve me □ table(s) of 10 @ $450.00 per table for the dinner Total $ _____________

Name: ___________________________________________

□ Attached is a cheque (payable to Mercy Regional College) for $ _______________

□ Credit Card Payment □ Visa Card □ Master Card [please tick which card is applicable]

Credit Card Details: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Expiry Date: □ □ / □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ ^
### YEAR 7 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (JUNE) 2010

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<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
<td>HUMANITIES (SOSE)</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
<td>Classes as normal</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
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<td>9th JUNE</td>
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### YEAR 8 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (JUNE) 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
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<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
<td>Classes as normal</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th JUNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
<td>HUMANITIES (SOSE)</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
<td>Classes as normal</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th JUNE</td>
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**NB:**
- All Junior Exams will be conducted at the O’Keeffe campus.
- Classes will run as per normal in the afternoon.
- School uniform is to be worn.
- Students will need to bring looseleaf to exams.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students are to bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.
Managing Conflict

We all possess a deep hunger for companionship – we were not born to be alone. We are social by nature – the story of the beginning of human kind in Genesis is a story of our deep need for each other, and the joys and complexities of living in community. In fact, the Hebrew scriptures give vivid examples of people on a journey of growth, at times in confusion, in joy, harmony and wonder but very often in conflict.

A crucial element in any relationship is conflict. We can’t always avoid it – in fact, all conflict is not necessarily wrong. But the more important point is how we manage it. Is there sufficient flexibility, goodwill and plain common sense to de-escalate conflict? Or do we become too hostile, too defensive – do we feel the need to win at all costs? Is our motto ‘I am right, they are wrong’? Perhaps we may even launch offensive counter-attacks.

Of course there are times when we need to stand up for what we think is right. There are times when we need to exercise authority to ensure appropriate conduct or to enable others to understand that what they may be saying or doing is not acceptable or welcome in our company or in our home. How positively we handle conflict depends on how much genuine interest we have in the other, how we seek to communicate and affirm, how we seek to offer encouragement. Sarcasm, belittling, ignoring, criticizing, blaming doesn’t do much to resolve conflict or to build relationships.

Today promoting conflict seems to attract interest and attention – it’s good for advertisers and sponsors! Just look at how major sporting events are promoted – as battles, as settling old scores or grudges. Often the language used to describe sporting events is similar to that used to describe war. Some of the most popular shows on TV feature conflict situations. For about twenty years now what has become known as ‘reality TV’ has become part of our lives – winners not only triumph over the losers but on so many occasions, the so-called losers are made to feel just that. Some of the competitors or judges appear to be chosen for their ability to be offensive, to denigrate the runners up. That’s the antithesis of the values that Christians espouse – a commitment to seek common ground through genuine respect and kindness, encouragement, tolerance and loyalty.

In any conflict situation, seeking common ground, trying to understand the other’s position is critical. Pope Paul outlined this process over forty years ago: “From Christians who at first sight seem to be in opposition, as a result of starting from differing options, the Church asks an effort at mutual understanding of the other’s positions and motives; a loyal examination of one’s own behavior and its correctness”, he wrote. That ought to lead to ‘an attitude of more profound charity’, he said, ‘which, while recognizing the differences, believes nonetheless in the possibility of convergence and unity’. (Octogesima Adveniens Apostolic Letter of Pope Paul VI #36)

That’s great advice in any conflict situation. Those who paid tribute to the late Senator Edward Kennedy spoke of him as one of America’s most foremost legislators, not just for the impressive list of laws which bear his name but because of his extraordinary ability to reach the common ground, a common understanding even with those of opposing attitudes and political beliefs, resulting in so much positive legislation and action.

In any conflict situation, when we enter into dialogue with others, both sides must be interested in seeking some common understanding of each other’s position. To do that, both sides must represent their own positions truthfully, and without any intent to deceive or dominate. Thirdly, each side must be able to take the other’s claims at face value, as truly representing the other’s position. In other words, we do not rush to ascribe ulterior motives to the other. Sometimes that is a tough call – conflict can be accompanied by tension or even aggression. It can be easy to let feelings and emotions become a major influence dealing with conflict, usually with negative consequences. On the other hand, resolving the conflict can lead to new patterns of behaviour, new understandings, a better appreciation of what the other thinks or believes.

Pope Paul wrote that “the method of dialogue is becoming the way in which to work to bring the Lord’s comforting message of salvation everywhere”. Dialogue is not about watering down beliefs or seeking compromise so that some hybrid set of beliefs emerges – rather it is about explaining, talking, respecting the other’s beliefs, trying to seek a common understanding. Pope John Paul II outlined the qualities for authentic Christian dialogue as listening to one another, respect, refraining from hasty judgements, patience and the ‘ability to avoid subordinating the faith which unites to the opinions, fashions and ideological choices which divide.”

Conflict is not always wrong. It will arise in the best of families, the best communities, be they faith communities or local communities. How we handle conflict can make it a growth point or a source of further division. Instead of feeling discouraged about resolving the situation, it can be a source of hope and encouragement. But it starts with me – “to reach out, to take the initiative, to be inspired by love, to set no limits, to apply no coercive pressure, to reach out to all and be accessible to all, to be persevering and ready to seize the appropriate moment”. (Pope Paul VI). In Paul’s words, “be patient with everyone” (1 Thess. 5:15).

Regards
Jim Quilliman

Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquilliman@dcsl.net.au

Managing Conflict 27 April 2010
Receiving School Reports Via Email

Mercy Regional College is offering parents and students the opportunity to receive their child’s progress and end of semester reports via email. This system would allow parents to electronically store their child’s reports and print them when required. The school is currently working towards allowing parent access to several components of our internal intranet referred to as SIMON. This access will enable parents to view their children’s profile, access to their timetables, past reports, school calendar, daily news, homework and assessment results. Whilst access to the parenting module is still a work in progress, parents can access their child’s profile and reports through the child logging in for them at home.

Until the parent access module of SIMON is available we are offering parents the opportunity to receive your child’s report electronically.

If you are interested in having your child’s report emailed to you please complete the permission form below and return to the college office.

Lisa Pope
Director of Teaching & Learning

Receiving School Reports Via Email

Students Name: ___________________________ Year: ______

Students Name: ___________________________ Year: ______

Students Name: ___________________________ Year: ______

Students Name: ___________________________ Year: ______

Parent Name: ______________________________

Email address: _____________________________

I give permission to receive a PDF file of my Childs /children’s report to be sent to me electronically to the email address listed above.

Parent / Guardian Signature: ________________________________