ISSUE 2-1

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 2011
Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

(John 20:19-21)

This gospel from the week of Easter reminds us of one of the central messages of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection – that he came to bring peace, to live a life that exemplified peace and one that continues to challenge all Christians to embrace peace. It is a message that is worth reflecting on given the significant national and world events of recent weeks.

Just below I highlight the significant numbers of students, staff and members of the College community who participated in last week’s Anzac Day commemorations.

There were many comments on the day that Anzac Day has become our national day, a time to reflect on the fundamental Australian values of justice, tolerance and mateship.

It seems that almost one hundred years since those brave young Diggers (some no older than our senior Mercy students) waded, ran and even crawled onto the steep and unsheltered slopes of Anzac Cove, their example provides meaning and inspiration to new generations of Australians.

Perversely, this week we have been overwhelmed by the death of Osama Bin Laden - a man who inspired great evil directly and indirectly and whose message of terror runs counter to the shared Christian and Islamic principles of peace, hospitality and love.

Prayer for Peace
The world prayer for peace comes from the Vancouver Assembly of the World Council of Churches:

For peace in your country
For the victims of violence everywhere
For those struggling for peace and justice
For churches in conflict situations
For a world without war and violence
Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our beings, our world and our universe.

Amen.

Along the Track
Please find on page 11 of the newsletter another reflection from Jim Quillinan of the Sale Catholic Education Office in Warragul, which has an Easter theme. Titled "Repent so we can believe the Good News".
**Anzac Day**
Last Monday, I was struck by the large numbers who joined my family at the Anzac Day commemoration in Camperdown. The numbers in Camperdown reflected each of our local ceremonies and I want to pay tribute to all students and staff who represented Mercy Regional College at these important community events. Special thanks to Mr. Lachie Lee who was responsible for organizing the College’s representation at each ceremony and to the students and staff below who led our participation:

**Camperdown**

**Terang**
Anzac Day Address given by Mr. Lachie Lee and Wreath laid by Bridget Glennen.

**Cobden**
Wreath laid by Mr. Daniel Beard, Jahd Anderson and Caitlyn Mitchell.

**Mr. Lachie Lee giving his address.**

**Mortlake**
Wreath laid by Lewis Taylor, Katie Erwin, Geordie Erwin and Joe Muir.

**New Students**
The College welcomes two new students at the start of second term – Lucas Rais-Colvin (Year 11) and Brooke Noble (Year 10). I am sure that all students and staff will make these young people quickly feel part of the Mercy community, a community that not so long ago welcomed me so generously.

**Letter from the Bishop of Ballarat**
Attached to this newsletter is a letter from our Bishop Peter Connors inviting members of the diocese to contribute to the appointment process for the new Director of the Catholic Education Office Ballarat. This is a significant appointment as the Catholic Education Office has delegated responsibility for all Catholic education in the diocese including Mercy Regional College and our local parish primary schools.

I encourage all members of the school community to read Bishop Connors’ letter and have your say.
Blessing of New Buildings at St Patrick’s, Camperdown and St Thomas’, Terang

Last Friday, I was privileged to attend the Blessing and Opening of new buildings and refurbishments at St Patrick’s School in Camperdown and St Thomas’ School in Terang. These ceremonies celebrated the spirit of community that richly imbues both schools; no doubt, the students, staff and parents of each school will benefit for many years from the new learning environments blessed by Bishop Connors.

Bishop Connors and Father Matthew blessing the new Library at St. Patrick’s Primary School.

Dan Tehan member for Wannon unveiling the plaque at St. Thomas’ with Terry Harney, Bishop Connors and Father Eugene.

NAPLAN Tests
Next week, from Tuesday 10th May until Thursday 12th May, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be conducted at Years 7 and 9. All students at these year levels will sit five tests across the three days. The tests include examination of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. One of the Numeracy tests requires students to use a calculator. Please ensure that your children are fully prepared for the tests. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Pope if you have any questions on the NAPLAN tests or the procedures associated with them.

Presentation Ball
After three years of being principal organizers of the College’s Presentation Ball, Mrs. Marie Harney and Mrs. Jenni Lenehan have stood down. Their energy, patience and attention to detail will be missed. But with their departure, the Presentation Ball needs new leadership, parents willing to take a leading role for the next few years. The College is fortunate already to have a number of parents who have taken responsibility for parts of the night but we are looking for two or three parents who will take the lead. If you are interested in this role please contact Mrs. Sue Bohm at the College.

Open Day
Mercy Regional College Open Day / Evening is being held on Wednesday 18th May across both campuses. The arrangements are included in the MRC Open Evening flyer later in this newsletter but I strongly encourage all parents who are considering enrolling their children at Mercy in 2012 to attend.

The term ahead promises many exciting activities and events – the College Cross Country, the Feast Day Eucharist and Battle of the Bands, Year 7 and 9 Retreats, Year 11 Street Retreats, Year 7 – 11 Examinations and the first round of Year 12 VCE Examinations plus other sporting competitions, subject competitions and social occasions. I encourage all students to get involved and give generously to the life of this great school.

Yours in Mercy,

Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL

Happy Mothers Day
to all our mums
on Sunday
Parent Teacher Interviews
Thank you to all parents who were able to make our Parent Teacher Interviews held in the last two days of term 1. The online booking system appeared to be well supported by our parents and the staff conducted over 1400 interviews in the two days. As our next interviews are not scheduled to the first day of term 4, parents are not required to keep their PIN, as a new PIN will be issued per interview schedule and we are hoping to send these to parents via your email accounts.

Report Survey
We have not had many parents respond to the survey we sent out regarding our reporting, assessment, and feedback procedures. This survey was sent with the Interim report package and we would really appreciate as much feedback as possible before we complete our review. Areas of reporting that we are currently reviewing include the Assessment Descriptors used to describe the level of achievement received for Assessment Tasks, whether our comments are purposeful and if they are able to guide parents on areas where their child can improve and what is the best way to communicate with our parents on their child’s progress. If you have lost your copy of the survey and would like to still contribute please contact the College office for a hard copy or you can complete the survey online by heading to the College website, under the headings - school, curriculum, reporting review and follow the link provided. This link is http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P6BCC8M

Exams
This semester, Exams will be completed across all year levels. I have listed the scheduled dates for these exams in the table below. It is important to remind parents of VCE students, that if your child is enrolled in a Year 12 VCE subject (Unit 3 & 4 sequence) then they are required to sit the GAT. VCAA states that for students who do not sit the GAT when required to do so, and who do not seek an exemption, will have an unauthorized absence noted on their VCE or VCAL statement for results.
Year 7 and 8 Students will complete mid-year examinations in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, SOSE and Science.
Year 9 Students will complete mid-year examinations in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Health & PE.
Year 10 students will complete mid-year examinations in all core and elective subjects (RE excluded).
Year 11 students will complete mid-year examinations in all their subjects (RE and VET subjects excluded).
Year 12 Mid Year Examinations are held in Unit 3 Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Physics.

JUNE EXAM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 13th</th>
<th>Tuesday 14th</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th</th>
<th>Thursday 16th</th>
<th>Friday 17th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unit 3 Biology, Physics &amp; Accounting</td>
<td>Unit 3 Chemistry, Psychology</td>
<td>GAT – Year 12 &amp; 11’s Year 10 Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th Year 10 Exams Year 11 Exams</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams Year 7 &amp; 8 Exams Year 9 Exams</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams Year 7 &amp; 8 Exams Year 9 Exams</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>24th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAPLAN
As mentioned by Dr Egberts, students in Years 7 and 9 will sit the NAPLAN tests next week. Please find an outline below of the testing timetable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 10th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11th May</th>
<th>Thursday 12th May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Year 7     | ● Language Conventions (45 minutes)  
● Writing (40 minutes) | ● Reading (65 minutes) | ● Numeracy (2 tests x 40 minutes) 
Note: Only one test requires a calculator |
| Year 9     | ● Language Conventions (45 minutes)  
● Writing (40 minutes) | ● Reading (65 minutes) | ● Numeracy (2 tests x 40 minutes)  
Note: Only one test requires a calculator |
Wellbeing Report
Mr. Kerin Glennen

Cyber Smart for all
The internet has become an integral part of life around the world. It is a powerful resource, enabling people of all ages to learn and communicate in a myriad of ways. For children growing up in a world where the internet has always been available; it is an essential tool. They are the digital natives, always surrounded by online technology, and using the internet from an increasingly early age.

Children can use the internet for many reasons which include:
- Find assistance with school assignments / tasks
- Learn skills
- Gain knowledge
- Meet new people who share similar interests
- Keep in touch with friends

But there are risks. Knowing how to use the internet safely is essential to having a positive online experience. For parents and their children, it is important to know how to apply these skills at home, at school and in public places such as the library and internet cafés.

The Cybersafe Guide for Families is produced by the Australian Communications and Media (ACMA). For more information or specific advice then visit the Cybersmart website www.cybersmart.gov.au or call 18000 880 176.

Students’ access to the internet
When a student is using the internet at home either in their room (which is strongly discouraged) and or in the family area they need to be aware of not placing themselves in risky situations.

This includes by:
- Giving out personal details about themselves to people or organisations they don’t know.
- By posting unsuitable information on line
- Agreeing to meet people they’ve only ever met online
- Using provocative pseudonyms
- Sharing passwords
- Posting public profiles about themselves
- Unsafe browsing or research
- Opening messages from people they do not know
- Responding to unpleasant or suggestive messages
- Accessing inappropriate or illegal material.

Not all internet users will experience problems. However, ensuring children understand these risks and have the knowledge to be cyber safe is important when accessing the net at home, at school and in public.

It is highly recommended that the home computer/s NOT BE put in bedrooms but be in the general family area. The reason for this is that parents are able to monitor what is being done and also to allow their son/daughter to get a good night’s sleep. The internet does not stop just because it is time for bed and sleep. Unfortunately students do come to school tired because they have been on the computer well into the night when they should be sleeping.

NOTICE

UNIFORM SHOP
CHANGE OF TRADING HOURS
There has been a change to the trading hours for the Uniform Shop.

The shop will only be open one day a week at the McAuley Campus, Camperdown commencing next week.

Thursday 10:00am to 2:00pm

We are hoping this will only be a temporary situation. But, we do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our families.

Katrina Boyd
Fashion Club Wear
uniform@mercy.vic.edu.au

CORANGAMITE FUTSAL CLUB

Corangamite Futsal Club Registrations and season starts
Thursday 5th May at The Camperdown Stadium.

Joey’s – Under 10 (starts at 5.30pm) Cost: $60
Junior 11-17 (starts at 6.30pm) $100
Seniors (starts at 7.30pm) $120
Queries: corangamitesoccerclub@yahoo.com.au
Barbara Ryan: 55933038 (forms available at Gerard Ryan Electrical)
**Coming Events**

**TERM 2**

**09 May**
* PTFA Meeting @ 6:00pm
  Packing Chocolates for Fundraiser
  Reception area, McAuley Campus, Camperdown

**10 May**
* Seeds of Justice Excursion
* NAPLAN Testing

**11 May**
* Seeds of Justice Excursion
* NAPLAN Testing
* Unit 3 Studio Arts - Top Arts Excursion

**12 May**
* NAPLAN Testing

**16 May**
* Street Retreat - Some Yr 11 Students

**17 May**
* Street Retreat - Some Yr 11 Students
* Board Meeting @ 7.30pm Camperdown

**18 May**
* College Open Day
  3:30pm – 6:00pm - O'Keeffe Campus Open
  7:00pm – Evening Program & Tours @ the
  McAuley Campus, Camperdown

**19 May**
* Year 9 Retreat - Chris Doyle

**20 May**
* Year 7 Retreat - Chris Doyle

**24 May**
* Mercy Feast Day
  Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians
* Mercy Battle of the Bands Competition

**26 May**
* VCE Top Designs Excursion Melbourne

**27 May**
* SOSE Excursion

**31 May**
* HSSSA Cross Country

---

**Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge**
Maureen O’Loughlan & Leesa Henriksen
VPRC Coordinators

Last Thursday, 28th April, the inaugural Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge Launch was held.

This took place in the Frank Pekin Library at the O'Keeffe Campus where the students involved enjoyed a special “Launch Lunch”. Holiday reading was discussed and each participant received a small box of goodies in recognition of their involvement in the challenge.

Prizes were also awarded to two students for their positive start to the reading list and excellent use of the VPRC webpage.

Well done to William O’Brien and Olivia Giblin! We encourage all students to continue reading, visit local libraries and look forward to our next get-together, which will be held later in the term.

* Mrs. Leesa Henriksen distributing the gift boxes.
* Olivia Giblin and William O’Brien with their prizes.
Geelong AFL Players visit O’Keeffe Campus
Report by: Daniel Kenna 7C

On 2nd May 2011 at the O’Keeffe Campus, we had Paul Chapman and Josh Hunt speak to us. They introduced themselves to us, and then answered a number of questions.

They also talked to us about all their training, who they barracked for when they were young and what it felt like to play in and win Grand Finals. At the end they signed autographs and posed for photos.

We were very lucky to have these fantastic players come to our school.

Careers News / Sports News
Mr. James Castles - Coordinator

2011 Defence Technical Scholarship

Congratulations to Tyson Osborne

A few weeks ago over 2000 applications were received for the 2011 Defence Technical Scholarship from students from all around Australia.

A huge congratulations is given to Tyson Osborne for being successful in winning this highly contested Award.

Tyson will receive a Certificate acknowledging this prestigious award, together with a $3000 Cheque.

This is an amazing effort for a worthy recipient.

Missing School Representative Uniforms

Could parents please have a search for any school representative uniforms that may have been brought home. Uniforms for Athletics, Netball, and Basketball. At our recent HSSSA Athletics Carnival, five new Athletics singlets went missing. This is extremely disappointing.

If you are able to help with this matter that would be much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Outdoor Ed – Sovereign Hill Trip

This excursion was held last term and it was a day trip only, the students had a great time. Below is a photo of all the students who attended on the day at Sovereign Hill.
4 May, 2011

Dear member of the Catholic Education Community in the Diocese of Ballarat,

I have already informed you that Mr Larry Burn has asked me to accept his resignation from the office of Director of Catholic Education after thirteen years of committed and generous service. His resignation will take effect on 31st January 2012. We are grateful for his leadership at a time of rapid change and continual growth.

Mr Burn has also represented the needs of the Diocese at the state and national level in a very effective and successful manner. Now is the time for us to commence the process for finding a worthy successor to Mr Burn.

You are aware that the office of Director of Catholic Education is a key position in both the faith and education life of the young people of the Ballarat diocese. For that reason we need to find a person of passion and of wisdom, with a vision for the future of Catholic Education, and who is able to dream and to bring others with her or him. The Director must also have impeccable professional qualifications and experience and a deep faith commitment.

Because of the importance of the position which will touch the lives of so many people in the Diocese, I am inviting you to assist me in providing me with your views on the qualities of the Director whom I should eventually appoint.

I suggest that you might also provide me with comments re:

- Your vision for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Ballarat for the next ten years.
- What services you would wish to receive from the Catholic Education Office.

Of course I shall be assisted in the process by a selection panel and a facilitator. However, your comments will be of great importance to the panel in carrying out their task.

You may convey your comments and views to me either by a letter marked private and confidential, or by email to peter.connors@ballarat.catholic.org.au

I ask that you take up this invitation no later than the 31 May 2011. I anticipate that the position of Director of Catholic Education will be advertised in the first half of June 2011.

I thank you in anticipation for contributing to the process of selecting a new Director of Education for the Diocese of Ballarat.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Ballarat
Mercy Regional College
cordially invites you to our

INFORMATION DAY
18th May, 2011

Open Afternoon
O’Keeffe Junior Campus, Noorat
3:30pm – 6:00pm
Families are welcome to view the Campus in operation
during these hours

(A light tea will be provided at the Campus @ 6:00pm for
families who wish to go on to Camperdown)

Evening Program
McAuley Senior Campus, Camperdown
7:00pm Registration
7:30pm Information Session
Followed by a tour of the College facilities

Information Packs & Enrolment Forms
will be distributed on the night
St. Patrick’s School Camperdown is celebrating 125 years of Catholic Education

Have you spent time at St Patrick’s School Camperdown over the past 125 years? If so, you are invited to attend the celebrations to be held to commemorate 125 years in Catholic Education – 1886 to 2011

**When:** 6th & 7th of August, 2011

**Where:** St Patrick’s School Camperdown
Dimora Avenue.

**What’s happening?**

**Saturday 6th:** Dinner at the Camperdown Football/Netball club rooms with entertainment

**Sunday 7th:**

11.00: Mass celebrated at St Patrick’s Church
12.00: BBQ lunch at St Patrick’s School
Afternoon: Look around school, displays, visit New Sisters of Mercy Library & see recent refurbishments.
2.30: Official cutting of the cake & burying of time capsule.

For more information or to book a seat for the dinner on the Saturday evening, please contact Michael McKenzie, Debbie Cheslett or Bronie Moloney at the St Patrick’s School office on 55931962,
Email at: dcheslett@spcamperdown.catholic.edu.au
Or post to: Dimora Avenue Camperdown, 3260 by July 29th.
We look forward to seeing you on August 6th & 7th.
Almost the first message Jesus preached was “Repent and believe the Good News”. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God. "The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!" (Mark 1:14). Mark uses the word ‘metanoia’ which has a much richer meaning than our English translation ‘repent’! At the beginning of his preaching ministry Jesus names metanoia, making positive change, a change in mind and heart as the first step toward seeking the Kingdom of God.

Metanoia, a change in mind and heart is very much part of believing. We could read Jesus’ words as ‘repent so that we can believe!’ The Kingdom of God is near, Jesus says, the Good News is that Jesus has come, that we have been redeemed. The Good News is that God loves us in ways that we find hard to even imagine. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Yet the Lord still waits for you to come to Him, so He can show you His love!” (Isaiah 30:18).

That is what Lent is all about. Firstly, Lent is a time in which we pause so that our hearts might discover again just how much we are loved by God. When we know we are loved, that gives us confidence, that knowledge gives us courage. Because of that we have the courage for honest self-appraisal. We have the courage to change our minds, to change our hearts. We cannot grow as Christians and we cannot even be truly happy unless we gain freedom from the things that bind us and those actions that diminish us. Each of us in our own way is imprisoned by attitudes, habits, compulsions, that bind our hearts and our wills so that we are living a diminished form of Christian life. We love less, we repent more, we do less and avoid more than we would if our hearts and our wills were freed from these things that bind us. So the spirit of metanoia works an interior change in us that corresponds to what the Father wants to do for us.

True repentance gives us the capacity to receive what the Father wants to give us.

Modern life is so busy, the world seems to be moving so fast, there are so many pressures upon us to succeed, to achieve, to pay the bills, to find work, to just hold it all together, that we can get lost in it all. Our lives are so crowded and full, and our world is so noisy that we cannot hear the voice of God calling to us and speaking to us of his love for us. We need to find ways this Lent for ourselves to hear that voice and to be moved by God’s love. Boris Pasternak reminds us that God’s call, God’s voice is often gentle and almost silent.

When God knocks on the door of your life, it is often no louder than the beating of your heart and so it is very easy to miss it. Boris Pasternak

We need to find times to be quiet more, opportunities to pray more, to take time to read the scriptures more, to meditate more, to participate in the Eucharist more so that we can hear the call of God and to give God the chance to reclaim our heart. We also need to become aware of the bonds in our lives, in our hearts that need loosening if we are to freely embrace the things that will make us better and more effective followers of Jesus Christ. That is why it is part of our Catholic tradition to seek God’s forgiveness for our failure to love during Lent.

Above all, we need to find times and ways to love more. So often it is easy to forget to show our love—there is no time or energy or space to express or to carry out acts of love towards each other. Parents can become too busy to spend time simply loving their children, because of the work they have to do to support their family. Young people can be so caught up in their own lives that they can forget to show their love for their parents. We can easily treat the people with whom we work or with whom we deal in shops and businesses as functionaries rather than real people with a human story, who above all, require of us that we love them.

Do you find it interesting that we have become aware of the month of Ramadan and what our Muslim brothers and sisters in faith are required to do during that month? It is often mentioned in the daily press. Would others know what is expected of us during Lent and why? Would they know that we are “keeping Lent”? Would they know that we are creating time and space for God, recognising that we too engage in some kind of Lenten self-denial, giving up things that normally clutter our life or make it more comfortable, limiting in some way our food or drink or other pleasures so that as we face our unfulfilled desires, we might realise that our deepest desire is really a longing for God’s love.

During Lent, we look to foster metanoia within ourselves, to find ways to welcome God’s Good News, to find ways that we might love more. In that way we try to turn from habits that may be destructive toward actions that would link us into the person God has created us to be.

Regards

Jim Quillinan

Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquillinan@dcs.net.au

1 March 2011
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 will be distributed to the youngest child in each family later next week.

Each box contains a variety of 48 chocolate bars.

We are very pleased that the price of each chocolate bar has gone back to the old price of $1.00 each.

Money received from the sale of your chocolates is to be returned to the College office in the envelope provided. The money along with any unsold chocolates must be in by the due date below.

Thursday 30th June

Selling as many chocolate bars as you can helps with the overall fundraising total for the College for 2011.

Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Deb Cheslett
On behalf of the PTFA Committee

HELPERS REQUIRED
CHOCOLATE DRIVE FUNDRAISER

We are in need of a few volunteers to assist with the task of packing chocolates into boxes for this PTFA fundraiser.

We will be doing this between 6:00 to 9:00pm at our PTFA Meeting next Monday. If some mums and dads could volunteer a small amount of their time during these hours it would be very helpful.

Date: Next Monday 9th May, 2011
at the McAuley Campus, Camperdown in the Reception area

A light tea will be provided at 7:00pm

Please ring me if you can be of assistance. Thanking you in anticipation,

Deb Cheslett

An exciting opportunity awaits your family:
Are you and your family keen to share a bit of Aussie life with an exchange student and gain a life-long friendship? Then you may be interested in being a short term host family for an American student aged 16-19 years.

Students will fit into your normal everyday life and look forward to experiencing the Aussie way of living. The host family stay is from June 27 until July 17.

Many local families have hosted American students in this area over the last 18 years. Support will be provided to ensure that the host stay is enjoyable for both you and your student. Students will travel to your family by V line train and host families are invited to a farewell lunch at the end of the program.

If you are interested in this opportunity or would like more information about the program, please contact Julie, The Exchange Network, on 0418 507 345.