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.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where (I) am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:1-5b

On Sunday, our Gospel passage is a very familiar passage from John and the section above highlights not only the extraordinary opportunity that Jesus offers his disciples (and us) but also the significant challenge that this poses. Jesus of Nazareth is the path to God, his life and words provide a perfect model by which a fully human existence is possible; yet it is a profoundly difficult challenge as each of us is human and ultimately flawed. As we approach the feast day of Mercy Regional College, I offer a prayer to our patron saint, Our Lady Help of Christians as a means by which the Christian journey can be illuminated.

Feast Day Prayer
Mary, Help of Christians, watch over us with love. Intercede for us with your Son, to bless Australia, so that we can be people of peace - people who love and respect each other, and people who love and respect our land, Australia.

We make this prayer through Jesus, your Son. Amen.

Mercy Regional College Open Afternoon and Evening
On Wednesday, the College was abuzz with the arrival of hundreds of parents, prospective students and families for the school’s Open Afternoon and Evening.

The afternoon started at O’Keeffe Campus where guests were shown around the campus by pairs of willing Year 7 & 8 students. The tours included visits to the Library, Science and Art/Textiles rooms, the newly completed Woodwork shed, Year 7 & 8 classrooms, Home Economics and the campus Computer Labs. While moving around, people were entertained by a variety of activities in and out of the classrooms; highlights amongst these included the special Open Day film directed by Henry Moloney (7A) and friends and the College choir led by Mrs. Janet Backhouse and Mr. Luke Bourchier. Congratulations to Mr. Tony Wynd for his coordination of the afternoon, all the staff who assisted and the 60+ students who showcased their school.

Following the successful time at Noorat, many families came across to Camperdown where an Information Evening was held at the McAuley Campus. On arrival, parents and prospective students were greeted by senior students who escorted them around the campus visiting College Administration, Home Economics and the Commercial Kitchen, the John Tindley Library, Art/Technology, the IT Centre and the Multi-Purpose Room where a variety of subject specific displays had been prepared. After most had been nourished by
some wonderful food from Home Economics, an information session was held in the de Chantal Stadium. The highlights of the night were undoubtedly the various student speakers and particularly our Year 7 ambassadors - Sebastian Conheady (7C) and Jacoba Mungean (7D). Thank you also to the student leaders and new parent, Mrs. Paula Atkins who assisted with this and to the many students and staff involved on the night.

Parents of prospective 2012 Mercy Regional College students are encouraged to contact Mrs. Sue Bohm at the College if they wish to obtain an Information Package and Enrolment Application Form. Enrolment applications close on Friday 24th June.

**NAPLAN testing**
Last week, Year 7 & 9 students completed NAPLAN tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. I would like to congratulate all on the mature and conscientious way that the tests were undertaken. Thanks also to the staff that coordinated this complicated process - Mrs. Lisa Pope, Mrs. Leanne Carpenter and Ms Sarah Hinkley.

**PTFA**
One of the PTFA’s major fundraising initiatives for the year began last week with the preparation of 350+ boxes of chocolates for each Mercy Regional College family. I encourage all families to support this fundraising drive as the funds directly improve the facilities and equipment of the College. Thank you to all those assisted in the preparation of these boxes and their distribution.

**Uniform Shop**
In the last College newsletter, a note was included regarding changes to the opening hours of the Uniform Shop. Unfortunately the notice indicated that opening hours had decreased. Can I direct all parents to the notice that went home on Monday 16th May for clarification on this matter and to reinforce that the Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday and Thursday at the McAuley Campus and Wednesday at the O’Keeffe Campus (see notice on page 9).

**Student Activities**
As is always the case, a number of fantastic student activities have occurred in recent weeks, these include:

- A group of six MRC students and staff - Monique McKenzie, James Devlin, Verity Watt, Kieran Gleeson, Joseph Cain and accompanied by Mrs Sharyn Grinter travelled to Melbourne to participate in the Victorian Mercy Seeds of Justice event. This overnight conference focuses on social justice and works of social action.

- Fr Matthew Thomas and Mrs Jo Saunders accompanied ten Year 11 students on the first of three Street Retreats last week. The street retreat included visits to a North Melbourne Soup Van and shelters in Fitzroy and Collingwood.

- All Year 11 students completed a Mock Interview program last Friday with a variety of local businessmen and women assisting. Students were required to nominate for a position, prepare an application and resume for the job and, then, were interviewed. All interviewers commented on the high quality of the students’ interviews and their preparatory work. Thank you to Mr James Castles and Mr Luke Bourchier for their leadership of this program.

- In the last week, the first edition of the new College student newspaper, “Mercy News” has been released. It includes a number of articles from students of both campuses and is available on the College website. Congratulations to all students who contributed and to the newspaper’s editors - Mr. Luke Bourchier, Mrs. Melanie Bourchier and Ms. Sophie Carr.

- I look forward to reporting on the success of this week’s Year 7 & 9 retreats that were held at the Noorat Community Centre and facilitated by Chris Doyle.

- Well done to Henry Moloney for the movie that he put together for Open Day. Henry dedicated a lot of time and effort and the result was great.

**Along the Track**
Please find on page 7 of the newsletter another reflection from Jim Quillinan of the Sale Catholic Education Office in Warragul, titled “The Parable of the Living Wage”.

**Congratulations**
To James and Chelsea Castles on the safe arrival of their second child a baby son “Rafter James”.

Yours in Mercy,

Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL
From the Deputy Principal / Wellbeing
Mr. Kerin Glennen

Alcohol and your child

Harm minimisation:
As parents, family or community members we can help to increase the safe use of alcohol by young people.

Some of tips for parents:
- Talk to your children about what is important to them and their plans in life.
- Know who your child’s friends and parents are.
- Start discussions about alcohol and drugs and the effect on young bodies.
- Know where your child is.....it’s OK to insist on this as a safety measure.
- Talk about ways of getting home safely from parties (walking late at night is not a good option) and other places where alcohol may be used. Do this BEFORE your child leaves for the occasion.
- Provide money for a taxi.
- Plan for your child to stay at a friend’s place and follow this up with a phone call to the parents.
- Harm minimisation is as much about preventing anticipated harm as reducing actual harm.
- Party planning…talk with other parents about providing a safe environment at a party, alcohol is not the be all and end all for a good party.
- If you are planning a party talk to other parents who have hosted one. Their experience can help a lot when you are planning a party.
- Encourage car pooling to parties and other events. This not only shares the work load but is supportive of other parents and families. It also helps you to keep in contact with people your child may mix with.

Parties / Alcohol and the Law:
Regarding unlicensed parties, there is some risk of legal liability attached to the provision of alcohol to party guests and in particularly those under the age of 18 years.

Teenage parties are a dilemma for parents. We want our children to have fun and learn social skills, but no one wants drunken behaviour, property damage, personal injury and gatecrashers to be the outcome of such a party. Yet young people often want to have alcohol available.

Coming Events

TERM 2

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

01 June
* Hampden Cup Day 1

03 June
* Yr 12 Dress-up Fundraiser

06 June
* 'Try a Career Day' for Yr 9 Students 10:00am-1:30pm

13 June
* Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

14 June
* VCE Exams - Biology, Physics, Accounting

15 June
* VCE Exams - Psychology, Chemistry
  * School Sports Victoria Junior Winter Sports

16 June
* VCE General Achievement Test (GAT)
  * Year 10 Exams

17 June
* Year 10 Exams (All Day)
  * School Sports Victoria Intermediate & Senior Winter Sports

18 June
* Year 10 Exams

19 June
* Year 10 Exams

20 June
* Year 10 Exams
  * Year 11 Exams

21 June
* Year 11 Exams
  * Board Meeting @ 7.30pm
  * Year 7 and 8 Exams
  * Year 9 Exams

22 June
* Year 11 Exams
  * Year 7 and 8 Exams
  * Year 9 Exams
  * Hampden Cup Day 2
Year 11 Mock Interviews Report
Mr. James Castles

On Friday 13th May, Year 11 took part in a Mock Interview Day. Students applied for jobs with a fictitious company, attended an interview and presented their resume and cover letter as part of the Career Education Program.

Congratulations to all students for their enthusiasm and participation. This experience will be rewarding both now and in the future.

The following students received highly commended in the Interview section; Ellie Kenna, Elliot Pyke, Jocelyn McDonald, Courtney Mathew, Seamus Conheady, Rachael Harney, Elizabeth Smart, Emily Walsh, Emily Neal, Kiara Williams, Madeline Moloney, Emily Kemp, Lucy Place, Spencer McKenzie, and James Keough.

The Interviewers worked in pairs when conducting the interviews with students. We are very grateful to them for giving up their valuable time to come to Mercy and work with us in this project. Without their assistance this day would not have been possible.

Listed below are the Interviewers and the businesses, companies and organisations they represent.

Gary Doyle (Gary Doyle Building) & Diana Veale (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Peter Reilly & Darren Mounsey (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Simon Pollard & Tyrone Patsch (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Lorna Tan (South Warrnambool TAFE) & David Gladman (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Kelvin White (LLEN) & Wayne Robertson (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Kerri Bauer (LLEN) & Anthony Smith (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Annie Judd (St Patrick’s Primary School) & Greg Baker (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Louise Cameron (RIST) & Tim Rantall (Westvic Staffing Solutions)
Michele Stephenson (Corangamite Shire) & Paul Atack (LLEN)
Michael Absalom (WDEA) & John Lineen (WDEA).

A special thank you goes to all the teachers involved on the day. Mr. Darren Cheeseman, Mr. Lachie Lee, Ms. Rebecca McGrath and Mr. Luke Bourchier. Their input helped make the day a great success.
Sports News
Mr. James Castles - Coordinator

MRC Cross-Country
Mercy Regional College completed our Annual Cross-Country event on 5th May 2011. The venue was the Terang / Noorat Walking Track, this proved to be a good location to cater for all abilities and the weather conditions were perfect. The overall results from the day saw Frayne house winning with 253 points from Ryan 193 points, Markey third on 192 points and Tindley fourth on 157 points.

Congratulations to Tonya Molan and Tyson Osborne for their leadership and the rest of the Frayne students for their efforts in 2011.

Age Group Champions:

2011 Winners
13 Female: Hannah Justin-F-(25.14)
13 Male: Josh Hickey-F- (20.33)
14 Female: Hayley Davis-F-(21.59)
14 Male: Nathan Stevens-M-(19.43)
15 Female: Elle Price-T-(23.12)
15 Male: Dermott O’Connor-R-(20.16)
16 Female: Libby Steel-T-(21.36)
16 Male: Declan O’Connor-R-(18.57)
17 Female: Hannah Absalom-M-(23.01)
17 Male: Brendan Richardson-F-(18.57)
20 Female: Meagan Carlin-M-(27.92)
20 Male: Jahd Anderson-M-(19.28)

The overall age group champions and their times are listed below above. Well done to all the students who took part in the event and thank you to all the staff members that assisted with the day.

The HSSSA Inter-school Cross-Country will be held Tuesday May 31st 2011. It will be a very good challenge for all students that will represent MRC.

Sydney Royal Easter Show
Report by: Kayla & Ashley Bradley

On the 23rd April, three students from Mercy Regional College, Kayla & Ashley Bradley and Ricky Nelson, members of the Western Districts Youth Challenge Team made their way to the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The day began at 2am sharp for most members of the team, as we had a lot of travelling ahead of us and an early flight to catch. The trip to Avalon airport was filled with anticipation and excitement for what was yet to come. As we arrived at Sydney Airport, we awaited our taxi and then made the one hour trip to the showground’s. Once we finally arrived at the showground’s it was time to get our accommodation sorted and then take a look around the cow shed and the rest of the show. As it was the night before the youth challenge, they practiced leading their heifers and received some very experienced advice from Dean Malcolm. It was very helpful and we felt much more confident afterwards. After a long day filled with laughter, fun and enjoyment it was time for bed. An early night was needed for the competition ahead.

The day of the challenge arrived. Our team consisted of 10 members who competed in 3 different sections, clipping, judging and parading. The clipping team consisted of Kayla Bradley, Bec Joyce, Jayke Fisher and Jeremy Spokes. Judging we had Ben Taylor, Kenny Ross and Pete Kerr. Those parading cattle were Ricky Nelson, Michaela Thompson and Ashley Bradley. As we prepared for the challenge our nerves began to settle. The clipping team competed first, then the judging team and last was the leaders.

As the challenge concluded, all teams patiently and anxiously awaited the results. Slowly, the results were announced from 9th place to 1st. Overall the placing from 9th to 1st was extremely close. It came down to the bottom two, Western Districts and Queensland. As a team, we were unsure of where we placed and it was a nail biting moment as we awaited the outcome. Next thing we knew, Queensland was announced second and Western Districts first. Words cannot describe the surprise we received and the shock we were in. It was an amazing feeling to know that all the sponsorship we received and practice and trial days were worth it.

Finally, the trip would not have been possible without all the help from our sponsors. On behalf of the team, I’d like to thank all our sponsors for the amazing sponsorship we received. Our sponsors included, Sungold, ABS, Hico, Total Dairy, Specialty Seeds and Warrnambool Vet Clinic. A big thank you goes to Kerri Ross and Justine Bradley for accompanying us on the trip and giving us advice and entertainment. We’d also like to thank Matt Templeton for arranging heifers for the paraders and Dean Malcolm for giving us exceptional advice on parading, the RAS for providing us with accommodation and Jason Chesworth for all his exceptional work. Overall it’s a great and enjoyable experience filled with hard work, fun and laughter and I’d recommend it to anyone to travel up to Sydney and compete there. It’s worth everything to win at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Bring on next year.
France Trip
Mr. Lachie Lee

The Mercy Regional College trip to France and Britain is set for departure on Friday 16th September. The tour will take in Paris, the First World War battlefields in France and Belgium where the Australians fought and London.

In Paris the party will visit the Palace of Versailles built by Louis XIV, the Louvre home of the Mona Lisa and the Eiffel Tower.

We will also visit Bruges in Belgium, a town which is often described as the Venice of the north because of its canals and waterways.

In London we will see Westminster Abbey where Will and Kate were married, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament. In England we will also visit the old town of Bath with its Roman ruins and the ancient stone circle at Stonehenge.

The tour party consists at present of 30 passengers including staff and students. We are keen for those students who are interested in the trip to consider joining us. It is not too late!

The price per person is $5200.00 and an itinerary can be obtained by contacting the school.
The Parable of the Living Wage

Jesus’ stories could be puzzling to say the least. They disturb us – they make us think outside the square, they sometimes challenge ingrained attitudes and even beliefs. The parable known as ‘the Labourers in the Vineyard’ (Matthew 20:1-16) is no exception. Jesus tells the story of the owner of the vineyard hiring casual labour. Early in the morning he goes into the market place to recruit workers and hires them for the daily usual wage. At midday he hires more workers, then again in the early afternoon, then late afternoon and even right up to ‘the eleventh hour’. At the end of the day he assembles all those he has hired at different times during the day and pays them all exactly the same wage! Many of them are not too happy about that, especially those who had been hired from early morning, those who had borne the ‘heat and burden of the day’.

Naturally, they complain that others who turned up later are getting paid the same wage for less work. The employer points out that the early workers have been paid exactly what was agreed – so what’s the problem? They received everything they deserved so why should they be so envious if he decides to be generous to the latecomers? It is his money after all.

And that, Jesus says, is what God is like!

Like all of Jesus’ parables, there are layers of meaning. Some interpreted the parable as Jesus teaching his fellow Jews that those who are only now being called into the kingdom of God should not be resented, and that they are, and should be, made just as welcome as the Jews who have worshipped and served God for centuries. In other words, God is equally welcoming to all who respond to his invitation, whenever they decide to do so.

Message two - no one deserves God’s love. It is not something we earn or merit. God’s invitation is offered to all without any strings attached – God welcomes them not because of their behaviour or the length of time they have served. The idea of deserving or merit God’s love is an idea that encourages the attitude that serving God requires multiple deeds – it is a laborious chore which needs to be recompensed. The harder we work, the more we pray, the more we serve, the more we deserve God’s love. But, Jesus’ parable teaches, no-one should object to God’s generosity to others or make jealous comparisons with their own situation - I have done so much that I deserve more! Remember Jesus’ story about the two men who went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood up and reminded God that he fasted twice a week and gave a tenth of all he received. And the other man simply begged for God’s mercy, in Jesus’ words “everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14

Still doesn’t seem quite fair though, does it? We have sympathy for the workers who had been toiling away in the boiling sun since dawn. Surely those who had been labouring all day deserved more as a matter of justice?

It just doesn’t seem fair not to reward people in proportion to their efforts and their labour. If we understand justice in terms of recognition of merits or getting our just deserts, then the answer is yes, they should have received more. But is that what justice is all about? Perhaps there may be something else to consider here.

There’s a compelling line in this parable – those hired late in the day tell the vineyard owner: ‘no one has hired us’. This parable may highlight another aspect of justice – do we simply see justice and something earned, something merited, something deserved? Perhaps justice is not so much about so called ‘just deserts’ or reward but rather it is based on need. Those hired, no matter at what time of the day, all have needs. All those in the market place were looking for employment, all had basic needs which had to be satisfied, they had to make a regular living through their work.

In this parable we are informed that the wage agreed on with the early morning workers was one denarius (Mt 20:2), which is generally recognised as having been a daily living wage for the time. Accordingly, when the landowner at the end of the day paid a denarius to all his workers, regardless of how much of the day each had spent in his service, we can think of him as not being simply a generous, or overgenerous, employer, but in fact as being a just employer, in the sense of being one who recognised the need that all his workers had for this amount of payment for their and their dependants’ daily sustenance, regardless of the hour at which they joined his work force.*

So how does this place the employer then – as one who seems unfair because he does not regard justice as simply paying what is owed (which he did indeed)? Or is the vineyard owner a much more just and fair employer because he sees justice as meeting people’s needs regardless of what, in their eyes, they may have deserved. Surely that is much more in tune with the Gospel message, firstly in reminding us of God’s generous attitude to us – the point of this parable. It is undeserved and nothing we can do can merit or earn God’s generosity. Secondly, because of that generosity, the parable challenges our understanding of justice towards one another. Is justice a reward for a job well done, something deserved and earned or is our attitude one like that of the vineyard owner - fairness and generosity to all but especially those who may need our help.

*The Parable of the Living Wage: Fr J Mahony, in Living Faith website 18 August 2009

Regards
Jim Quilliman

Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquilliman@dsclinet.au

The Parable of the Living Wage

10 May 2011
IMPORTANT
NOTICE TO PARENTS
UNIFORM SHOP
CHANGE OF TRADING DAYS & HOURS

Dear Parents,

There has been another change to the trading days and hours of the Uniform Shop. Commencing this week the uniform shop will trade THREE DAYS A WEEK over both campuses.
The shop will be open the following days and times.

Two days a week at the McAuley Campus, Camperdown.
Tuesday 12:00pm to 2:00pm
Thursday 12:00pm to 2:00pm

One day a week at the O’Keeffe Campus, Noorat.
Wednesday 12:00pm to 2:00pm

We hope these new arrangements will better suit the needs of all our parents in the Mercy community. If you have any further queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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

TRY A CAREER DAY
at Sherwood Park, Warrnambool

Previously, this day has been held at Cobden but South West TAFE has offered its facilities and staff on MONDAY 6th JUNE to provide a full on-site experience for its students.
Between 11 am and 12:30 pm on this day, all students will participate in three activities selected from 19 options: Automotive, Agriculture, Agriculture (Sheep), Business and Retail, Building and Construction, Cabinet Making, Childcare, Engineering, Integrated Technologies, Equine, Fashion, Hair, Plumbing, Make-Up, Hospitality, Health, Nursing, Allied Health, Media, Sport and Recreation, and Visual Arts.

Students will select and know their allocated sessions before the day. They will be bussed free-of-charge to and from Sherwood Park, courtesy of the South West TAFE.

Students will be given information about lunch by their respective schools. Full school uniform is required.

All other inquiries to your Careers Teachers.
Cordially invites

you

to our sixth

Annual Mercy Dinner

Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} July, 2011

to be held at the
Noorat Community Centre

Featuring
Kristen Bourke
(Past Mercy Student)
&
Luke Bourchier with band “Just a Drill”

The Dinner will commence at 7.00pm with Pre-dinner drinks and savouries followed by a sumptuous two-course meal.

Cost $48.00 per head

Drinks are available at bar prices.

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

\textbf{Mercy Regional College 6\textsuperscript{th} Annual Mercy Dinner}

I wish to purchase $ \square$ tickets at $48.00 per person to attend the dinner \hspace{1cm} Total $ \underline{ }$

Please reserve me \square \hspace{0.5cm} able(s) of 10 @ $480.00 per table for the dinner \hspace{1cm} Total $ \underline{ }$

Name: \underline{ } \hspace{6cm} \underline{ }

Attached is a cheque (payable to Mercy Regional College) for $ \underline{ }$

\square Credit Card Payment \hspace{0.5cm} \square Visa Card \hspace{0.5cm} \square Master Card \hspace{0.5cm} [please tick which card is applicable]

Credit Card Details: \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ } \underline{ }

Expiry Date: \underline{ } \underline{ } / \underline{ } \underline{ } \hspace{4cm} Signature \underline{ } \\

Please return this booking form and payment to the College Office by Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} July, 2011

For further enquiries please contact Sue Bohm on 5593 2011 or sue@mercy.vic.edu.au