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.

Benedicto. Benedicto.
This cry, so familiar to many of us from World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, was heard across the airwaves again this past weekend with the enormous celebrations of World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. At the final celebration, attended by our College chaplain, Fr Matthew Thomas and Year 11 student, Elizabeth Smart, the words of Pope Benedict XVI called today's young people to a life of faith, love and compassion, a life after Christ:

"It is not possible to find Christ and not tell others about Him. So, do not keep Christ for yourselves. Communicate the joy of your Faith to others. The World needs the testimony of your faith."

"You too, have been given the extraordinary task of being disciples and missionaries of Christ in other lands and countries filled with young people who are looking for something greater...Having faith means drawing support from the faith of your brothers and sisters, even as your own faith serves as a support for others. Growing in friendship with Christ necessarily means recognising the importance of joyful participation in the life of your parishes, communities and movements, as well as in the celebration of Sunday Mass."

Congratulations
On behalf of the Mercy Regional College community, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Lisa Pope on her appointment as Deputy Principal - School Operations at Emmanuel College, Warrnambool from the beginning of the 2012 school year. Lisa has been an outstanding staff member having served our community for thirteen years as teacher, faculty leader, Head of Teaching and Learning and, this year, as Deputy Principal. I have no doubt that our neighbours on the Hopkins River will be enriched by Lisa's vision and drive next year.

Facebook
Over recent weeks, as many parents will already be aware, there have been a small but significant number of inappropriate uses of Internet social networking sites amongst the school community. The issue of cyberbullying and/or inappropriate or offensive internet postings has become a significant one for all schools, parents and families. Mercy Regional College has been proactive in the education programs that have been integrated into the College's Pastoral Care and other curriculum offerings, however, we will increase the frequency with which these are offered to reinforce to all students what constitutes acceptable use of the internet and electronic devices.

Technology Initiatives at Mercy
Next week, I hope to announce a significant technology initiative for Mercy Regional College. Details will be posted to parents and students and on the College website.

Thomas Carr College Exchange
This week, a number of Year 8 students have benefited as part of the annual Thomas Carr College - Mercy Regional College Exchange. The Head of O'Keeffe Campus, Mr. Tony Wynd and I travelled to Thomas Carr last Monday to join our students as they began their program and the new Principal of Thomas Carr College, Dr. Andrew Watson joined students at the O'Keeffe Campus as both sets of students arrived in Noorat on Wednesday.
School Improvement Framework

From Tuesday 13th - Thursday 15th September, Mercy Regional College will welcome two school reviewers and a representative of the CEO-Ballarat to work with our staff and students to complete the College's School Improvement Framework. This document provides the College with a major opportunity to reflect on all aspects of the school and to plan for the next four years.

As part of the process, the reviewers would like to meet with a representative group of parents. If you would like to be a part of this consultation which will take around one hour on the Tuesday afternoon, please contact my secretary, Mrs. Sue Bohm on 5593 2011.

Car Raffle

This year will be the 37th year of the Mercy Regional College Car Raffle. The car raffle is certainly now the most important fund-raising effort of our PTFA. Raffle books and rosters for selling tickets have been posted home to all families.

This year's prizes are as follows:

1st Prize:
2011 Ford Focus LX Sedan valued at $28,999 including on road costs (Auto, prestige paint, air conditioning, power steering, cruise control CD player, alloy wheels 6 air bags and ABS) supplied courtesy of McKenzie Ford, Colac and proudly supported by Manifold Motors, Camperdown.

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

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

4th Prize:
Nutrimetrics Pamper Pack valued at $250 supplied courtesy of Helen Bourke, Kolora.

5th Prize:
Fuel Voucher valued at $250 supplied courtesy of Riordan Fuels (Steve Lucas, BP Camperdown).

6th Prize:
Clothing Voucher valued at $200 supplied courtesy of Fashion Clubwear, Canterbury.

7th Prize:
Jewellery Voucher valued at $200 supplied courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown and Colac.

8th Prize:
Dinner Voucher valued at $100 supplied courtesy of Madden's Bar & Bistro, Camperdown.

The College is very grateful to the suppliers of raffle prizes for their generosity. Where possible it would certainly be appreciated if our school community could support these businesses. I look forward to a very successful car raffle result, which can be easily achieved if ALL families work together to sell their book of raffle tickets and assist with the selling roster.

Staff Faith Development Day

This Monday 29th August is a student free day at Mercy Regional College. The day has been designated as a staff faith development and will focus on the topic, “Catholic Understanding: The Human Person”. The program has been organized by the Catholic Education Office Ballarat and will be facilitated by Dr. Frances Baker. Frances is a noted theologian, lecturer at Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne as well as being a Sister of Mercy.

In conclusion, I commend to all in the Mercy community, to read this week's 'Along the Track' on page in which Jim Quilllan explores the issues of Facebook, cybersafety and social networking sites. It is most appropriate reading for all!

Yours in Mercy,

Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL

Instrumental Concert

Janet Backhous - Music Teacher

Mercy Staff, Family and Friends are warmly invited to attend our Annual Instrumental Music Concert. This evening will be held on Thursday the 8th September in the Multi Purpose Room at the Mc Auley Campus in Camperdown.

The concert will begin at 7.00pm sharp and we are hoping to conclude the program by 9.30pm. Guitar students are asked to arrive at 6.30pm for tuning and other students to arrive by 6.50pm. I appeal to everyone attending to stay for the whole program so that all of the students feel supported.

The program last year was fantastic and we all enjoyed an incredible evening of Music and Song. The instrumental teachers have all prepared their students for this evening and the program is shaping up to be another brilliant night where our students showcase their talent. Parents are asked to bring a plate of food to share after the Concert.

I am looking forward to meeting with you and hearing our students perform. If you have any queries, you can contact me by email: jbackhous@mercy.vic.edu.au or by ringing the school office on 5593 2011.
**Director of Teaching and Learning**  
*Mrs. Lisa Pope*

**VCE Subject Selections 2012**  
Late last week we distributed the VCE Blocks for 2012. These blocks were created after collecting the information from our students on their preferred subjects. Student selections of the blockings were due this week with the aim to have selection process finalised by the end of August. After the release of the blocks, students in Year 10 or 11, who need extra guidance in their selections are able to ring the school to make an appointment to discuss your child’s options with one of our VCE or Careers staff members: Mr. Lachie Lee, Mr. James Castles, Mrs. Lyn Davies or Mrs. Lisa Pope. Mr. Lee will distribute a confirmation sheet to all students in the coming weeks confirming their subject selections.

**Middle School Selections 2012**  
Thank you to the Year 8s and 9s who have completed their initial process in subject selections. These selections, like the VCE will also be developed into Blocks and students will be allocated accordingly. If any parent or student has a concern about what they have selected, please feel free to email or talk to Ms Sarah Hinkley or Lisa Pope. We will be talking to students as soon as the blocks have been developed to make sure students are happy with their final allocations. Please understand that we work hard to meet our students’ needs, and it’s more than likely they may not be able to study all of their chosen preferences, this is why they are asked to pick alternatives. Where students have clashes with blockings, we will talk to the students and give them time to reevaluate their options. Once again we hope this process will also be completed by the end of August and all students will be given a confirmation sheet of their electives.

**Reports**  
Last week students in Years 9 - 12 were issued with the first round of progress reports for the semester. This report is a timely reminder, especially for our VCE students that it is a time for action. Many students who are studying a Unit 3/4 will be working hard over the coming weeks to finish courses and allow suitable revision time to prepare for their final exam. If parents have any concerns regarding their child’s progress please feel free to contact their Homeroom teacher. All students from Year 7 - 12 will receive a report at the end of term; this report will also include booking information for Parent Teacher Interviews.

**PAM – Parent Access to their child’s learning**  
The Parent Access Module (PAM) of the school’s intranet (SIMON) is currently being tested by our staff. This module is an online account that will provide parents the ability to locate the following information about their child/children: Student Timetable, Student Daily Messages, Class Attendance, Upcoming Events, Student Reports, Homework and Assessment Tasks. I am interested for parents who are willing to trial their accounts in preparation for the whole school community to come on board. If you would like to trial PAM and provide some feedback please free to email me at school lpope@mercy.vic.edu.au. It would be great to get this up and running.

On Tuesday August 23rd the two Year 12 Biology classes went to Gordon TAFE Science Laboratory, Geelong, to complete SAC work in DNA Analysis. The students performed an investigation using DNA fingerprinting analysis to eliminate samples of DNA left at the scene of a crime. The process of eliminating DNA samples enables forensic scientists to narrow the search of possible suspects. The students used techniques including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), which is a process that amplifies DNA samples, so a scientist has a greater sample size to work with. The students then cut the DNA using specific enzymes, which results in an individual’s unique DNA to be cut at different lengths. The DNA samples are then loaded in a gel electrophoresis machine, to sort DNA samples by size (length). This process enables DNA to leave a trace in the gel, which can then be compared with other known samples.
Experiencing Cyberbullying.....We can work at it together...

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying which is carried out through an internet service such as email, chat room, discussion group, online social network, instant messaging or web pages. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as SMS.

Examples of cyberbullying behavior are:
- Teasing and being made fun of.
- Spreading of rumours online.
- Sending unwanted messages.
- Defamation

Cyberbullying can happen to anyone no matter what their age and the bully can act anonymously (very cowardly) if they want to. People can also be bullied online by groups of people such as class groups or collective members of an online community. It’s really important to learn how to protect yourself online and to learn how to respond if you or a friend is being cyber bullied.

How common is cyber bulling?
The number of reports of cyberbullying to the Net Alert Helpline has increased, particularly since 2006. An online safety survey conducted by Net Alert and Ninemsn in February 2007 found that:
- 16% of young people said they had been bullied online, whilst 14% were bullied through their mobile, with boys and girls experiencing similar levels.
- 56% thought it was easy to get bullied online.

Under certain circumstances (such as harassment and making threats) cyberbullying is a criminal activity and is illegal. If you feel your safety is at risk, contact “000” or your local police. Police around Australia work together to reduce this type of crime and there are serious consequences if people participate in such activities.

How you might be feeling if you are being cyber bullied
Just like any bullying, there can be terrible effects on those who experience cyberbullying. Being bullied can lower your self esteem and you may feel alone, sad, angry and scared. If you are being bullied it is not your fault and there is nothing wrong with you. Don’t be afraid to let someone know that you are being harassed so that help / support can be put in place for you.

How to stop cyber bullies:
It is true that if you are being cyberbullied you may feel alone but there are options for you to take so as to stop the problem. These include:
- Keep a record...dates, time of day...this may help the police to find who is sending the messages.
- Tell someone....talk to someone you trust about what is occurring.
- Contact your phone or internet service provider and report what is happening...they can help by blocking messages or calls from certain senders.
- Do not reply to bullying messages...It will only get worse if you do.
- Do not give the bully a chance to engage you in any follow up contact. Change your contact details..get a new user name for the internet, a new e mail account, a new mobile phone number and ONLY give them to your closest friends.
- Keep your username and password secret...keep your personal information PRIVATE
- Complaints can also be made to www.acma.gov.au/hotline.
- Contact the police for assistance and information on what else can be done.

The most important thing that you can do is commence the conversation with a trusted friend/parent or adult, when you first become aware that you are a victim of cyberbullying. You do not have to and should not put up with this style of hideous bullying at all.

Middle School Report
Mrs. Sarah Gellie

V-Line Training Workshop
Former AFL star and now V/Line ambassador Nathan Thompson will be presenting the V/Line Life Training workshop to our Yr 10 students on Tuesday 30th August at St Patrick’s Church. Topics to be discussed will be binge drinking, self esteem, peer group pressure and the tough decisions one has to make during the adolescent years. This interactive session led by Odyssey House and Nathan Thompson is aimed at giving our students real insights into the problems faced by teenagers so that they can make better informed choices in the future.

Student Recognition

Nathan Monk of 10A for his outstanding behaviour and willingness to help others on the recent Outdoor Ed trip to the snow.

Cindy Unwin of 9C for her consistent, positive and happy attitude and outstanding work ethic.
My, how the year has flown; here we are half way through Term 3 already. And hasn’t it been an action packed year to date? There are so many great things happening that it is hard to keep track. The students are so lucky to have such a dedicated group of teachers, who not only put 100% into their classroom teaching, but will also go out of the way to provide extra activities such as; Premiers Reading Challenge, Debating, Chess Club, Running Club, Netball, Mathematics Challenge, Footy Tipping and I could keep going, with so many more great opportunities available for the students to participate in.

‘Mercy’, it is more than just the name of our school, it is what we are all about. This is evident in our Religion classes with our Year 7 focus for this term being ‘The Covenant Unfolds’ which is all about the development of the Old Testament and its significance to the Christian community. We have explored the structure and the literary styles of the Bible. The Bible has been getting a workout as we locate and analyse scripture! We have become more familiar with locating scripture references as ‘what page number is it on?’ has become a big no no!! Our first assessment task on reflecting on our life as a style of ‘Bible’ is coming up. We look forward to sharing our stories.

Year 8s are looking at Sacraments – particularly Baptism, a Sacrament of Initiation. This involves an understanding of why people choose to have their children baptized. The students are interviewing three people of different generations to come to an understanding of how baptism may have changed over the past forty to fifty years.

Year 7 English classes have been watching ‘Edward Scissorhands’, our film-as-text study. The first few weeks have been spent getting to know the characters in the film. Throughout the term we will identify the ideas, themes and issues explored in the movie. Lots of discussions have taken place around the idea as ‘The Story as Fairytale’ and the use of Cinematography. The movie has provided lots of laughs (especially from Jack Wilson!) as we get to know Edward Scissorhands!

Our weekly Spelling and Grammar focus is again in full swing for the semester. We have weekly words we need to learn and activities we need to complete. It has been great to see our progress as we churn through our lists of words we need to know.

Year 8 students are studying the novel ‘The Dons.’ We are working through several aspects of Italian culture, aged and dementia care, and the life of an adolescent. This involves several styles of writing to explore and relate the life of Paul Taranto to our word. We are looking at persuasive writing, expository writing, creative writing, essay writing and oral presentations.

Handwriting is also under the watchful eye of all teachers! Our aim is to become more aware of joining our letters and using correct formation and size. No one likes repeating work if it isn’t up to scratch so you may as well do it correctly the first time!!!

In the maths classrooms algebra is our new best friend as we learn about using letters or a symbol in place of a number. Formulas and variables have become a part of our everyday language! Did you know that you use Algebra when you bake a cake? Maths Online has been a great website to help us learn and revise Mathematical content and gauge our progress through set units. Class teachers are setting us tasks to work on at home and during school time and we are enjoying this interactive way of learning that involves use of visual and auditory skills. We are all striving for the platinum medal!

In Year 7 SOSE classes Geography is our focus this term and we are gaining a better understanding of Geospatial skills and in particular reading maps. The internet has been very useful and we are enjoying Google Earth and Mapping Australia. Our assessment task is a mapping task where we are showing our knowledge of BOLTSS. (Hopefully your child will be able to tell you what BOLTSS is!)

You just never know what you will be doing next in science, from terrariums to mouldy sandwiches to tadpoles. Our terrariums are growing very well with some students counting up to 22 leaves on their petunias and pansies since planting three weeks ago. We are about to view the furry moulds that we have grown on our sandwiches. That should be very interesting. We have looked at the human body and its functions inside. We have explored the periodic table and its elements.

Semester 2 has started off well in woodwork. Now that the room is up and running students are working busily on their projects.

Year 7C and 7D have done some theory work on safety and have drawn up a list of rules that they have agreed to follow. The first project they are working on involves plastics and they are making a photo frame out of Perspex. They have to shape the corners and then use a ‘heat box’ to bend the frame into shape. After this they start on their second project which also uses plastics. This is a ‘key tag’.

Year 8C and 8D have also made a good start and they have completed their safety modules and plans for the shelving unit that they are making. They have been busy measuring wood and sawing it into the correct lengths (which is more difficult than it seems). They will then put some creative designs on these boards before assembling them into a shelving unit. One student keen on surfing is making a shelving unit in the shape of a surfboard! There are some very imaginative creations being constructed.

Year 8 students are working through several aspects of Italian culture, aged and dementia care, and the life of an adolescent. This involves several styles of writing to explore and relate the life of Paul Taranto to our word. We are looking at persuasive writing, expository writing, creative writing, essay writing and oral presentations.
In Year 7 and 8 Music we have been working on developing the ability to read and write music and create our own works. Students have performed using Rhythm combinations to create Group Movement and Sound Performances. We call this ‘Playing the Hambone.’ The students use written rhythms to create their work by clapping, clicking, stomping, and slapping their thighs etc. So when you hear all that ‘noise’ coming from our music classes, remember that music is all about organising and performing using sound. It has been a lot of fun working with the students as they devise their work, notate, rehearse, and perform for one another.

Students in Year 7 Textiles are busy learning a variety of embroidery stitches and starting their felt embroidery major project for the semester under the theme of Farmyard Friendship. Measuring, cutting of fabric, tie dye methods and learning to operate a sewing machine are the skills the Year 8 Textile students are undertaking to complete their first project which is a tote bag.

In Year 8 Drama we have been learning to work as a team to develop our improvisation and performance skills, story-telling, and our focus and concentration. The students have been learning to develop stories which create ‘Suspense.’ Using Role-play, Freeze Frames, Mime, Sound Effects and a Narrator, the students have improvised, rehearsed, scripted, performed and evaluated their own work and the work of others. It has been amazing watching the students create their own works and perform for one another. We look forward to many more inspirational Drama sessions.

The Year 7 Graphics students are taking their first steps in learning the skills of Graphic design and Communication, which involves the skills of learning how to use the equipment correctly while completing their work tasks.

Year 7D Art Students have been focusing on line and pattern to design monsters. Within this task students needed to consider the habitat their monster lives in and using watercolour pencils they painted backgrounds. In the coming weeks the class will explore Photoshop to manipulate photographs of themselves into warped and alien like faces. These images will then be used as a point of reference to draw cartoon like images from.

Year 8C Art Students have been painting general objects from the classroom using a monochromatic painting scheme. This is where students choose one colour and either tint or shade areas by adding black and white to the colour they have chosen. In coming weeks students will explore watercolour paintings of the Chapel at the O’Keefe campus.

Year 8B Graphic Design students have focused on letterform and layouts which can be created. The class spent the start of term re-designing the facebook letterform into a more creative version. Students have now moved onto designing a converse slip shoe which relates to a song, story or an interest of their own.

Thank goodness the days are lengthening out and the weather is on the improve, it makes Physical Education a far more pleasurable activity when the sun is shining. Sixteen students represented the school at the table tennis competition in Warrnambool on 27th July. All students were successful and now move onto the next stage in Geelong in October, which was a great effort. And we must not forget Daniel Kenna who won a great prize for a golf essay that he wrote.

All of this is just part of the exciting goings on at the O’Keefe campus. Most exciting is the wonderful relationships/friendships which are built and fostered between both staff and students alike. This is what makes us all want to get up and return to MRC at the start of each day. Thankyou goes to all the staff who contributed to the preparation of this report.

Included are a number of photos from the following faculty areas.

- Students baking in Home Eco.
- Students working on Art projects.
I would like to finish with a rhyme written by Mrs. Margaret Jeffery about her much loved 8B homeroom.

Jazzy’s mind goes on one track, Jack makes a great football attack.
Kris often needs a healthy snack, Paddy likes to yack, yack, yack.
Jackie likes to read a paperback, Will is very matter of fact.
James is certainly not slack, Tom has a great six-pack.
Tim can get over a set-back, Lucy likes to be extremely exact.
Sam is a real crackerjack, Haylee is great on the racetrack.
Sophie likes a good soundtrack, Olivia never has a panic attack.
Joe likes a good flapjack, Meg’s life is jam-packed.
Annie will never have a heart attack, Grace always listens to feedback.
Rebecca has a cool back pack, Steven is not an insomniac.
Mardi Mc is on track, Brady always makes a wise crack.

8B are fabulous, in fact.

Netball Report
Stacey Hillman

On Wednesday August 17th we took three teams down to Melbourne to compete in the 2011 Netball Victoria School Championships. Thirty girls were selected from a large number who tried out to represent the school and participated at an exceptional level.

The results from the day were:
- Juniors: 3rd
- Intermediate: 2nd
- Seniors: 5th

A big thank you must go to Rebecca Rees and Rebecca McGrath for driving the buses and to Kylie Broderick and Jess Van den Eynde for helping out. It was nice to see so many parents came along to support the girls for the day.
Sports Report
Mr. Darren Cheeseman

MRC Junior Football
On Monday 8th August the MRC Junior Football team participated in the second day of the Hampden Cup Football Competition after it had previously been cancelled due to unsafe conditions. Mercy Regional College was going into the day with one win and one loss recorded from the first day of competition so to have any chance of claiming the title we needed to win our remaining games and to hope that Cobden Technical School would lose one of their remaining matches.

The games were played in perfect conditions at the Leura Oval and with some good contributors the team was able to defeat both Camperdown College and Terang College. This left us with a 3-1 win loss ratio but it was not enough to claim the title as Cobden Technical School did go through undefeated.

Some of the consistent performers over the two day carnival included Richard Couch, Jack Osborne, Nathan Stevens, Dermott O’Connor, Matt Baxter and Thomas Cheslett. All students did a fantastic job representing the school and with quite a number of Year 8s in the team it looks promising for 2012.

MRC Table Tennis
On the 27th July sixteen students from Years 7 and 8 travelled to Warrnambool to be the first Mercy Regional College table tennis team to participate in the School Sport Victoria competition.

Students played a variety of schools including Warrnambool College, Derrinallum College, Heywood College and Baimbridge College, Hamilton.

Students enjoyed the day and put up a good content against the other competitors.

As a result a number of teams will progress to the next level in Geelong which is held in Term 4. Well done to all involved.
National Interschool Equestrian Qualifiers
Belinda Greig competed in the 90cm show jumping event at the National Interschool Equestrian Qualifiers held in Werribee in July.

Each event was comprised of three classes. Competitors were given an aggregate score for their placing in each class and the top four competitors overall in each event have been selected to compete in the national championships to be held at Werribee in October.

Following is a photo of Belinda competing in the 90cm competition in which she placed second on her pony Radnor Fantastic and therefore qualified for the Nationals.

Belinda also competed in the 75cm non-qualifying event on her young horse, Tom Jones, in which she placed second.

Community Visiting Report
Mrs. Jo Saunders

Students from Year 10C have been out engaging with the community as part of the Christian Outreach program. They have been busy at St Pat’s, St Colman’s and St Thomas’ schools; Merindah Lodge, May Noonan, Sunnyside and Vinnies; also at the David Newman Centre and Cooinda.

It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to reach out to the community and support others. During the term that the students participate in Christian Outreach, they are also required to complete an online assignment reflecting on the Christian Values they witness whilst in these facilities.
Year 10 Boys Retreat
Report by: Zac O’Flynn and Toby McKenzie

On Wednesday, the 10th of August, the year 10 boys were driven down to Anglesea by bus for two days of sport, speakers and reflection. We left school at around half past nine, arriving at Araluen Lutheran camp at a quarter past eleven, where we were told the rules of the camp, had a bite to eat, and went outside for a while.

Fifteen minutes later, we met our first speaker, Damien. Damien told us about his experiences as a male nurse working with the Peace Corps in places like East Timor and the Solomon Islands, as well as some of his work as a nurse here in Australia.

Then we had lunch, played a bit of Soccer with Mr. Moloney, and went back for the second speaker, Daniel. Daniel’s talk showed us how a single, seemingly insignificant decision can change the course of your life. Then, Lachie talked to us about VCE and subject selection, and we then wrote our post cards that were later sent home. We all then went outside and played a game of Soccer and several other activities.

We had dinner at around 6:30pm and then we had a session with Fr Matt, where we affirmed those around us. We then watched The Last Castle, a film about an uprising in a war prison, before going to bed. All students had a good night’s rest.

Next morning; breakfast, clean up and other activities were held with Mr. Moloney. We had one last speaker - John, who works in the MICA unit. Some of the images he showed and stories he told were confronting, but it was definitely worth seeing.

Following this we had lunch with the girls (who arrived at ten past eleven) before leaving and heading back to school, arriving just in time for the buses. Thank you to Fr. Matt, Mr. Jason Moloney, Mrs. Jenny O’ Neil (for the great food) and Mr. Glennen. The time away was enjoyable and interesting for the Year 10 boys.
Europe/France Trip Update
Mr. Lachie Lee

The first excursion to Europe from Mercy will depart on Friday 16th September. Twenty students and twelve adults will make up the touring party and we will visit Paris, the battlefields of the Somme region in France and Ypres in Belgium, Bruges in Belgium and London.

The party consists of students from years 9 to 12 and members of staff. While in Paris we will visit the Louvre Museum home of the Mona Lisa and the wonderful Palace of Versailles built from late in the 17th Century. This palace was built by Louis XIV who was known as the Sun King because of his extravagance and has been central to French history since. The peace treaty at the end of the First World War was signed here in 1919. In Paris we will also climb the Eiffel Tower and enjoy the great views over this great city.

We next move to Amiens from where we will explore the battlefields of the Somme where the Australians fought during the First World War. Some of the students have explored local soldiers who were killed in the war. Many of these men were reported as missing and later dead but with no known grave.

The names of 11,000 of these men are on the Australian War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux, which we will visit. Some of the soldiers that the students have researched are recorded at this place.

Ypres in Belgium is where the Australians fought from July until November 1917. As representatives of our school and community we will attend the Last Post Ceremony and lay a wreath at the Menin Gate Memorial. This memorial has the names of 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres area and have no known grave. Some of the soldiers we are investigating are named here as well. It will be a thoughtful experience for us all to visit the resting places of those of our people who left so long ago never to return.

While in Belgium we will also travel to Bruges a medieval town in Belgium which retains its ancient charm because it remained largely undamaged during both world wars. Bruges is sometimes known as the ‘Venice of the North’.

We will journey to London by Eurostar where we will remain for three nights before returning home. In London we will see all the great sites as well as a day trip to Bath and the ancient Stone Age monument at Stonehenge. In both London and Paris we will have time where we can simply wander the streets, shops and monuments of these great cities.

Our trip will be a great experience for those travelling and, as we are the first to have represented our school community as a group in Europe, it is a matter of pride for us. The students and staff are very excited about the opportunity.

Coming Events

29 August
* School Closure Day - no students (Staff only)

30 August
* VLine Life Skills Program Yr 10 9:30AM-1:00PM

05 September
* PTFA Meeting @ O’Keeffe Campus 7:30PM

06 September
* HSSSA Winter Sports

08 September
* Shrine Outreach Program for Year 9s (10AM-12PM)
* Guest Speaker for France Trip (7:00PM-9:00PM)
* Instrumental Concert (7:00PM-9:30PM)
* Junior Debating in Geelong (7:00PM-9:00PM)

12 September
* Street Retreat – for some Yr 11 Students

13 September
* Street Retreat – for some Yr 11 Students
* Literacy Workshop - Yr 8s
* School Improvement Framework (13th – 15th Sept.)

16 September
* France / England Tour Departs
* Warrnambool Interschool Equestrian Championships

20 September
* Board Meeting @ 7:30PM

22 September
* PARTY Program - Alfred Hospital

23 September
* Term 3 concludes

29 September
* France / England Tour Concludes

10 October
Staff PD – no school for students

11 October
Term 4 commences for students
Parent/Teacher interviews 2:00PM – 8.30PM
Take Off Your Shoes

Our world is full of information, old and new. It is rightly called ‘the Information Age’ because new ideas and concepts, via books, TV, film and the web find us everywhere – in our homes, our places of work, in our cars, literally at the touch of a screen. Everyone seems to provide us with thoughts, ideas and opinions on just about anything. Digital services allow us to transfer data at incredible speed but is that enough to satisfy our deep-seated need to communicate?

I read recently of a person who decided to commit ‘Facebook suicide’ by deleting her profile. She had become ‘over it’ – she had placed everything she was doing on Facebook and when her friends met, there was nothing to talk about. So they met less frequently. But by abandoning Facebook, she cut herself off from her friends who were all still too busy to meet. So it was Facebook or nothing!

Our desire for communication is important but our desire to communicate is even more fundamental. It is part of our desire to belong, to connect, even our desire to love and be loved. Receiving information is one thing, but real communication is about connecting with the other, entering their world and trying to see the world and life as it appears to that person. That takes real courage. However, if we enter the other’s world avoiding making evaluative judgements, we can run the risk of being changed ourselves, according to psychologist Carl Rogers. Good listeners, however, are prepared to take that risk - listening is not done just with the ears. Listening is much deeper and more versatile than that. If we really want to ‘hear’ and understand the other, we need to put on the other’s shoes and walk around in them.

Theologian Michael Himes suggests that:

To be able to imagine the world from another person’s perspective is the beginning of all wisdom. It’s what moves you outside of yourself. It’s the point at which we make the all-important discovery that the other human being is another human being and not an extension of us.

Taking off our shoes and walking around in another’shelps ideas, concepts, beliefs to take flesh, as it were – they help them to become real and not just abstract notions. Taking off our own shoes and getting into another’s helps us understand life as the other sees it. The metaphor of taking off our own shoes is important, putting aside our own prejudices and pre-conceived notions – then listening, feeling and imagining without making judgements about the other – just trying to understand. Of course we have our own ideas, reactions, beliefs, moral judgements. But trying to understand why another acts in the way he or she does, why he or she believes what they do takes tolerance and understanding and an openness to new ideas and ways of thinking.

Jesus urged us to be tolerant and understanding of others. He warned us not to make judgements about others, or we will be judged in the same way (Matthew 7:1). He asked why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye (our selective blindness)? You hypocrite, he said, first take the plank out of your own eye before you start making judgements about others! When men brought a ‘woman caught in adultery’ to him, He asked those who were without sin, to cast the first stone. They all disappeared!

Taking off my own shoes, then walking in the other’s is risky, it requires daring, courage and sensitivity. Shoes are such very personal things. In the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, in the middle of the floor under glass, hundreds of shoes of holocaust victims are displayed. No-one walks across them. They are not sculptures or artifacts or recreations. They are real – real people wore them. There are tiny shoes for little children. One pair for example, belonged to Doris Mathes, born June 14, 1942, gassed January 17, 1944, at Auschwitz. And so, the inscription says, died the dreams of her family, her family’s family and generations not yet imagined.

Three of my children visited Auschwitz just after Christmas last year. To say the least, they were profoundly moved by what they saw, not the least by the shoes. They are graphic reminders of real people. How can we do something so horrible to real people? What might the wearers have been, what might they have become, what might they have done? It is a lesson not to be lost - our tribute to them could be the way we bring that to life today – the way we try to understand the other, their hopes, their dreams, their beliefs, their experiences – what has brought them to this stage and why.

Being able to imagine the world from another person’s perspective takes courage. We often have to move out of our own comfort zone. We discover the extraordinary wonder of the other person – we are all unique, all gifted, all different. In moving outside of ourselves, out of our own petty jealousies and limitations and seeing life from another’s point of view, we can discover the ability within us to forgive, to be reconciled, to learn new ways of being and acting – new ways of appreciating our own values and beliefs too.

A few years ago a TV station in the US organised a competition which asked the question: if you could choose to be anywhere else for 24 hours, just to walk in their shoes, who would it be and why? Good question isn’t it? How would you answer it?

Regards
Jim Quillinan

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

Take Off Your Shoes 16 August 2011
CAMPERDOWN AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

SEASON COMMENCING TERM 4

Senior Teams need to complete a Registration form available from Davis Milk Bar or Camperdown Picture Framing.

MIDGET & JUNIOR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: __________________________________________

D.O.B. __/__/______

CONTACT NO: _____________________________

EMAIL: ___________________________________

JUNIOR/MIDGET (please circle one)

All players must be at least 7 years or older by 31st DEC.

Registration forms to be returned by 9th SEPT to Davis Milk Bar or Camperdown Picture Framing.

Any queries contact Denise 5595 1588 or Ruth 5593 2523.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MANY REASONS.

Not just for high academic performance.

Not just for financial hardship.

Not just for a love of basketball.

You can apply for scholarships at eight universities with a single application through VTAC.

Apply for scholarships at eight universities with a single application through VTAC.

Opens 9am, 1st August, 2011.

Closes 5pm, 21st October, 2011.

Applying for scholarships is free all it takes is 15 minutes of your time.

Website: www.vtac.edu.au

All Age Textiles Day

No. 2

Learn to knit, crochet and stitch

Saturday 27th August 10am - 4pm

at St Paul’s Anglican Church Hall, Church St, Camperdown

Following the success of the last Textiles Day we will be holding another one on Saturday 27th August. If you’d like to teach someone to knit, stitch or crochet, come along! If you would like to learn a new skill come along.

If you would like to just sit, knit and chat, come along. All ages welcome!

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Gold coin donation

BYO lunch. Morning and afternoon tea provided.

Try knitting a scarf, a teddy, some knitted flowers etc etc. Simple patterns will be on hand.

BYO ball of 8 ply wool and size 4 metric knitting needles or crochet hook.

Where to purchase wools and needles:

Laff’s, Manifold St, Camperdown

Thanks to Kim for her fabulous help at the last day!

Eco Show, Church St, Camperdown

Ask Katrina about the Wrapped with Love rugs that you can make from knitted squares.
CAREER PATHWAYS
INFORMATION NIGHT FOR
PARENTS AND STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31
AT COLAC COMMUNITY LIBRARY
AND LEARNING CENTRE

6:00pm  School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship
         information session for Years 9 and 10

6:45pm  Deakin University, The Gordon and
         South West TAFE post secondary school options
         information session for Years 9-12

7:30pm  Break

7:45pm  Post secondary studies application processes and
         Centrelink/Youth Allowance information session
         for Years 11 and 12
MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
PARENTS, TEACHERS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

CAR RAFFLE

1st Prize – Ford Focus LX Sedan
Automatic, Power Steering, Air Conditioned, Cruise Control CD Player, ABS, Alloy wheels, On-Road Costs, 6 Airbags
Value $28,999

Supplied Courtesy of A.K. McKenziem Motors, Colac
Proudly Supported By Manifold Motors, Camperdown

2nd Prize - Travel Voucher Value $2000
Supplied Courtesy of Harvey World Travel, Camperdown

3rd Prize - Electrical Voucher Value $1000
Supplied Courtesy of Camperdown Retravision

4th Prize - Nutrimetics Pamper Pack Value $250
Supplied Courtesy of Helen Bourke, Kolora

5th Prize - Fuel Voucher Value $250
Supplied Courtesy of Riordan Fuels (Steven Lucas BP Camperdown)

6th Prize - Clothing Voucher Value $200
Supplied Courtesy of Fashion Club Wear

7th Prize - Jewellery Voucher Value $200
Supplied Courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown / Colac

8th Prize - Dinner Voucher Value $100
Supplied Courtesy of Madden’s Bar & Bistro, Camperdown

TICKETS STILL ONLY $10.00

Drawn 16th November, 2011 at 8.30 pm
At the Mercy Regional College Arts Night
# CAR RAFFLE ROSTER FOR 2011

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<td>9.00 - 10.30</td>
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