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.

As we move expectantly into the liturgical season of Advent, the opportunity exists not only to prepare for the upcoming celebrations of Christmas but also to reflect on the year that has passed. In the last week, parishes across the Diocese of Ballarat received a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Ballarat, Peter Connors. This letter reflects on the most significant change to occur in the Church this year, the introduction of a new Missal and hence new words and responses in the Mass.

It has been a change that has taken some getting used to with learned Mass responses deeply ingrained in many of us. However, Bishop Peter’s explanation of the importance of the changes is worth some consideration, I have included an excerpt below:

“The language of the first English translation (of the Latin Mass) can be said to have an everyday character. However, the celebration of the Eucharist is not merely an everyday event. It is, of necessity, a more formal event and therefore calls for a more formal use of language....When we are participating in and celebrating the Mass we are in the presence of God and the language we use should...call us to a deeper understanding of what it is that we are doing.”

Copies of the Pastoral Letter can be obtained from either College campus.

Mercy Regional College Thanksgiving Mass
An invitation is warmly extended to all in the Mercy community to join us at the College’s End of Year Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday 8th December at St. Thomas’ Church, Terang commencing at 7.00 pm. The End of Year Thanksgiving Mass is our final celebration as a College community for 2011 and provides the opportunity to reflect upon, and give thanks for, the joys, achievements and challenges of the past twelve months.

At the conclusion of Mass, presentations of awards and prizes for high achieving students in Years 7 - 11 will occur. Parents of students receiving awards will be notified by email early next week.

The award presentations will be followed by supper in the St Thomas’ Community Centre. Parents of Year 7-9 students are asked to bring a plate of supper to share. If you can help, please ring Betty Kenna on 5592 6297 or 0407 052 019.

2011 Graduation Mass and Dinner
Last Friday night, my wife and I were privileged to join the Mercy Regional College graduating class of 2011, their families and teachers as the completion of thirteen years of education were celebrated. The evening was a memorable one with a start at St Patrick’s Church where students processed in as a group, listened to the affirming words of scripture, and of Fr Matthew’s homily, and then came together to receive communion or a blessing.
The Principal's Graduation address explored the theme of ‘the Road Less Travelled’ with students encouraged to consider making the right decision as they embark on adult lives and not just the easy or straightforward alternative because it is obvious.

A number of Year 12 students were recognized through the presentation of the following awards:

**Corangamite Citizenship Award**  
Awarded to: Jack McKenzie

**Principal’s Award**  
Awarded to: Samantha Alexander

**Caltex Allrounder Award**  
Awarded to: Monique McKenzie

**ADF Leadership & Teamwork Award**  
Awarded to: Connor Saunders

**VET Excellence Award**  
Awarded to: Darcy Woolley

**Deakin University Achievement Award**  
Awarded to: Hannah Gibney

**Mercy Arts Prize Award**  
Awarded to: Helena Evans

**College Captains Presentation**  
Awarded to: Charlie Bradshaw  
Bridget Glennen

**Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship**  
Awarded to: Joe Muir

The highlight of the evening was the Graduation dinner and, in particular, the sight of all Year 12 graduates seated together at a long central table surrounded by their family, friends and teachers. Congratulations to all who worked very hard to make the night a success but especially, the Head of Senior School, Ms Lyn Davies.

**College Yearbook**  
In a change to the practice of recent years, the College Yearbook is almost ready to go out. It will be distributed to the youngest in each family group in Years 7 - 10 next Tuesday with yearbooks to be mailed home to Year 11 and 12 students, where appropriate. At this point, I would like to pay tribute to Mrs Maureen O’Loughlan who has coordinated the preparation of the College Yearbook for the first time this year, Mr Ian Nicholson who has supported Maureen in the long process and the many students, staff and community members who provided articles and photos.

Congratulations to Franklin Moon (7C) who designed the front cover to the 2011 Yearbook and will receive a book voucher next week in reward.

**iPads@MRC**  
In my article, a couple of photos have been included that illustrate some of the excitement at O’Keeffe Campus in recent weeks with class sets of iPads being trialled in Year 7 classes. A reminder to all parents and students that a dedicated website has been set up to provide information on the College’s iPad program for 2012-2013, this site can be accessed through the parent menu on the College website.

**Years 7 - 10 Student Finish**  
Next Wednesday 7th November, all Year 7 - 10 students finish up for the year. Wednesday will provide an opportunity for students to celebrate the end of another successful year, thank their peers and teachers who assisted them during the year and make some early plans for a productive 2012. I also encourage all Year 7 - 10 students to achieve the best results they are capable of in the end of year exams which are occurring in the next few days.

**2012 Mercy Regional College Presentation Ball**  
Late last week, I sent out a letter to prospective 2012 Year 11 parents and students inviting them to attend an information evening about next year’s Presentation Ball. The Information Evening will be held this Tuesday 8th December in the MultiPurpose Room, McAuley Campus starting at 7.30 pm.

In last week’s letter, I mistakenly said that the Coordinators of the 2012 Presentation Ball were Mrs Kate Kent and Mrs Jillian O’Connor, I should have said Mrs Kate Kent and Mrs Susan Moloney. My apologies but thank you to each nonetheless.

Yours in Mercy,

DR DARREN EGBERTS  
PRINCIPAL
Making Decisions Regarding Teenage Parties

Making decisions about teenage parties can be difficult and with the new laws regarding underage drinking and supplying alcohol to these young teenagers. Parties are a part of life and growing up, but no one wants a party that goes wrong because of drinking or gate crashers. Yet young people often want to have alcohol available.

Parents are often faced with the following questions: What do I do when my teenager wants to have a party?

Should I supervise the party?

Should I allow alcohol to be available, keeping in mind the new laws regarding underage drinking and the fines for permitting alcohol to be consumed by underage youth.

What are my obligations and responsibilities to other parents?

A teenager’s request to parents to have a party can be unexpected and a parent may say yes without thinking through all the issues, so before responding:

1. Give yourself time to think.
2. Clarify the level of involvement your teenage wants from you.
3. Check the Safe Partying tips available either on line or at your local police station.
4. Decide on the bottom line conditions you agree to.
5. Discuss your concerns, if you have any, about the party.

The most effective way of preventing problems arising from the use of alcohol at teenagers parties is not to have it available at all. However, this is not always realistic and can result in conflict between you and your daughter or son.

You are responsible for informing parents of those attending, particularly when alcohol maybe involved. Alert parents to the commencement time of the party and what time their child/children can be picked up. The more adults willing to be involved and prepared to assist lends to the party being enjoyed by all.

Just something to remember:

Drinking in adolescence can be harmful to teenager’s physical development and particularly brain development. Adolescence is a critical period in a young person’s development towards adulthood. What they learn during their teenage years, and how they learn it, can set the young persons path for later life. Alcohol consumption during this time can bring about learning difficulties, memory problems and other concerns and other problems later in life.

O’Keeffe Last Day of Term

Mr. Tony Wynd

Just a reminder of what’s happening on Wednesday 7th December. All students are to wear casual clothes for this day. Periods 1 and 2 will be for clean up and Kris Kringle. Period 3 will be an Assembly run by the Year 8’s. At the end of assembly students will leave for the Mortlake Pool at 12.15 and return back to the O’Keeffe Campus at 2.45pm.

All students will need to bring hats, drinks lunch, bathers and sunscreen. All this information was given to the students last week in a note, and the permission slip and $5 needs to be returned to the office by next Tuesday.

Any student who does not return the permission slip and money will not be able to attend the pool, as all classes have been reminded everyday.

This is a great way to end the year on a positive note and we would expect all students to attend school this day.

Sports Report

Mr. James Castles

On Friday the 11th of November, Matt Baxter, Daniel Kenna, Charlie Brett and Jack Kenna represented MRC in the state golf championships in Melbourne. The boys qualified for this event earlier in the year at Colac. This event was held at the Waverley Golf Club. The boys had a very successful day coming 5th overall in the team event.
Middle School Final Day  
*Mrs. Sarah Gellie*

Middle School students will celebrate the final day of the 2011 School Year by travelling by bus to Warrnambool for a visit to Aqua Zone. Students will have full use of the outdoor pool and kiosk facilities. Games and novelty events will be organised, with a Year 9 versus Year 10 challenge to cap off what is anticipated to be a fun filled day. The school will provide sunscreen but it is expected that all students will be sunsmart and will regularly apply sunscreen to themselves.

Students will return to the McAuley campus by bus at 2.40pm. The cost of the day will be $10. Students need to have their permission slip and $10 returned to school by Tuesday 6 December.

**Student Recognition**

- **Nathan Bailey** Year 10 - for his dedication and creativity in producing his Commando Pud Fitness DVD.

- **William Keough** Year 9 - for his assistance at the Arts Night auction.

- **Amy Pemberton** Year 9 - for her caring and helping attitude in the classroom.

- **Henry Kissick** Year 9 - for his outstanding music ability and willingness to help others.

**Noorat Show Results**  
*Sharyn Grinter and Fiona Sargeant*

Congratulations to all students from the O’Keeffe Campus who exhibited an item at the recent Noorat Show. The Campus was a hive of activity as students completed writing tasks, art work and put the finishing touches on their novelty cakes. It was great to see families and friends making a particular effort to inspect the displays on Show Day. Many of our students were successful in receiving an award through the school entry section, competing against other local schools.

**Results:**

- **Poetry:**
  1st Georgia Buchholz
  2nd Sophie Atkins
  Highly Commended: Lachlan Bone, Meaghan Bone, Seb Conheady, Georgia Lucas, Jessica McIntosh, Hannah Moloney, Lily Lourey, Claire Kingston, Ella Clarke, Stephanie Lee, Thomas Leadbeater.

- **Short Story:**
  1st William O’Brien
  2nd Olivia Giblin, Henry Moloney
  Highly Commended: Georgia Buchholz, Deanne Fleming, Elly Harris, Indira Kent, Susie O’Brien, Charlie Unwin, Jack Williams

- **Creative Writing:**
  2nd Emma Lucas
  Highly commended: Hayley Turner

- **Calligraphy:**
  1st Emma Calvert
  2nd Victoria Conroy, Sarah Cole

- **Junior Pillow:**
  1st Meg Lenehan

- **Scarecrow:**
  1st Emma Lucas

- **Chocolate Cake:**
  1st Jack Wilson, Lachie Spicer
  2nd Jordan Wareham, William O’Brien
  Highly Commended: Hamish Mc Conachy, Taylor Neal

- **Pikelets:**
  1st Emma Lucas

- **Decorated Cake:**
  1st Olivia Giblin
  2nd Susie O’Brien, Ebony Reynolds
  Highly Commended: Meg Lenehan

- **Fruit Cake:**
  1st Olivia Giblin
  Most Successful Exhibitor: Olivia Giblin

Briony Kent, Emma Sargeant, Rachel Pineo and Ruby Johnstone all of Year 9 for their assistance with the preparation and serving of food at Arts Night.
Year 11 Mercy student on board the Young Endeavour

Report by: Mereanna Vickers (11A)

At the beginning of this year, I applied for a leadership development course called the Young Endeavour and on November 9th, I received a call from the course saying that I had been selected to take part in the course if I wanted to. My voyage however, departed in seven days time!

A week later, I headed off to Melbourne for the experience of a lifetime. I climbed aboard a tall sailing ship with 26 other strangers aged between 16 and 23 and we departed Melbourne docks at 3pm Wednesday 16th November. We had to sail from Melbourne to Hobart with a group of people that we had never met but by the end of it we were more like family. For the next seven days, we familiarized ourselves with the ship, and the crew taught us all about how we could effectively sail without their help. On the voyage’s ninth day, we were given the ship to sail from Port Arthur to Hobart unassisted; the entire youth crew effectively and efficiently sailed to Hobart with no real dramas.

We docked a total of three times during our entire voyage and climbed the highest lighthouse in the southern hemisphere, saw many dolphins and marine life, experienced the rough seas of Bass Strait and climbed to the top of the mast!

This was the trip of a lifetime and I am so grateful to have gone on the voyage, the people I met were amazing and became more like family and the experiences I had will forever be imprinted in my mind. I strongly suggest that everyone should apply because I had the most amazing time and I will never forget my time on the Young Endeavour.

Sports Uniform
Stacey Hillman

As part of the College uniform all students are required to wear a MRC maroon sports shirt and MRC black sports shorts to all Physical Education classes and sporting events when representing the school.

In recent times it has become evident that this is not occurring and as a PE/Health faculty we are concerned by this. As of next year all students 7-12 inclusive are required to wear both items to every lesson and sporting event to show their pride in our College uniform.

Singlets, leggings, and any other t-shirt are not acceptable and if worn will result in the students not participating. Consistent failure to comply with the correct uniform will be deferred to the Heads of School.

We thank you for your continued support on the matter and encourage you and your children to refer to the uniform policy in the front of their daily planners.

The photo below shows the correct sports uniform for students.
France Trip Reports & Photos

The Battlefields Tour
Report by: Paddy Kenna

On the 16th of September, I and 30 other students and teachers headed off to the other side of the world.

After the 22 hour plane ride over, France, Belgium and England awaited our arrival. Over these 3 European countries there are many sights to see and I’m sure we did our best at covering them all. The Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, The Menin Gate, Stonehenge and the amazing towns of Bruges and Bath, just to name a few. But the main purpose of the trip was found on the farms and in the small towns of France and Belgium, the battlefields of the First World War.

All the memorials and cemeteries scattered throughout the countryside were a real eye opener for everyone. Sure we have been told plenty of times about how bad and brutal the war actually was, but it's not until you visit the sites and read all the names that you fully understand the pain and suffering they went through to make the country we live in a safe one.

I would highly recommend going on this trip for future students not just for the fabulous shopping in Paris, but to get a better understanding on what our ancestors gave up for us and Australia.

Battlefields Tour 2011
Report by: Rachael & Paige Gibson

Overall the tour overseas to visit some European battlefields was an absolute blast. We enjoyed all 3 countries that we visited; they were France, Belgium and England.

The place we enjoyed the most though would have had to been our time Belgium. We stayed in the city named Ypres, very close to a large square. The square had everything we would need, clothes, chocolate and ice-cream shops. We were also near the Menin Gate, where a ceremony is held at 8 pm every night to honor the soldiers who fought and fell down in the surrounding areas of Ypres. This ceremony was always interesting and unique but even with the different crowd, everyone held the same quality of respect towards the ceremony.

Also in Belgium we visited Bruges. With all its old, medieval streets and narrow canals, it was a place we could have stayed at for days. The large square at Bruges was perimetered by restaurants of all cultures and countries. It was here we enjoyed a serve of yummy mussels!

Everywhere we went there was something different and amazing. It was crazy to be driving through the French countryside and thinking that almost a hundred years ago there were men, not much older than ourselves fighting on the fields around us. All the buildings were historic, not the skyscrapers we’re used to it in our home cities but big, grand, stone buildings and in France and London, there were beautiful gardens all through the city.

The food we had was pretty magnificent too. As we normally got to go out and choose our own meals, it was pretty hit and miss, as we didn’t really have a clue what different foods were like. Disappointingly we personally didn’t get to try a snail, but if you ask the people who did, they probably wouldn’t recommend it. Going to all these fantastic places, with a great group of people, was an amazing experience. I learnt so much more about history of Europe, foreign currency, foreign language. And I would definitely do it again one day.
TERM 4

5 December
* Year 7 & 8 Exams / Year 9 Exams
* Year 10 – 11 Transition

6 December
* Year 7 & 8 Exams / Year 9 Exams
* Year 10 – 11 Transition

7 December
* Year 7 - 10 students conclude
* Year 10 – 11 Transition

8 December
* Secondhand Book & Uniform Sale Day
  (1.00pm - 3:30pm)
* College End of Year Mass @ St Thomas'
  (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

9 December
* Booklists to be returned to the College Office

14 December
* Teaching Staff conclude

19 December
* Office Closes

TERM 1, 2012

23 January
* Book Collection Day 9am – 3pm

6 February
* Year 7, 11 & 12 students commence this day

7 February
* Year 8, 9 & 10 students commence this day

8 February
* Year 7-9 Swimming Trials

9 February
* Welcome BBQ for Year 7 Parents

10 February
* MRC Swimming Carnival
The Following Information relates to the 2012 School Year

2012 Booklists
Booklists have been distributed to all students enrolled at Mercy Regional College for 2012.

It is very important that all students return their booklists to the College office by no later than:

Friday 9th December, 2011.

Please remember to write your child's name and address on the booklist.

If you would prefer, you can submit your child's booklist online via Warrnambool Books website www.warrnamboolbooks.com.au (if you use this method pre-payment is required). Please ensure that you follow the instructions for completing your child's booklist correctly.

Book Parcel Collection Date
Monday 23rd January, 2012, 10:00am to 3:00pm. A number of options for paying for your booklist are available on the front cover of the booklist.

Second-hand Book & Uniform Sale Day
Date: Thursday 8th December
Time: 1.00pm to 3.30pm
Campus: McAuley Campus, Camperdown

We would remind you that all books and/or uniform in the sale belong to other parents and students and are not the property of the College, so payment must be made on the day [Cash/ Cheque ONLY no EFTPOS or Credit Card facilities are available] please remember to bring your child’s Booklist.

Instructions for selling your second-hand Uniform and Text books

All uniform items must be fit for sale, therefore they must be:
- clean and presentable
- current uniform items (no green shirts)
- in good condition

Text books must be fit for sale, therefore they must be:
- clean, presentable and in good condition
- on the 2012 booklist
(please check the 2012 Booklists, these will be pinned up on the noticeboard of both campuses).

Uniform items and text books must have an envelope attached to them, stating your name and the price. These items can be dropped off to the office at either campus by no later than Wednesday 7th December.

Uniform Shop Trading Hours
The uniform shop will be open on the day of the second-hand book & uniform sale for parents wishing to purchase new uniform items.

EFTPOS facilities are available in the uniform shop. All students are to be in full summer uniform at the commencement of Term 1, 2012.

The normal trading hours for the Uniform Shop each week are as follows:
- Tuesday - 12pm - 2pm
- Thursday - 12pm - 2pm

This will continue for the remainder of November.

The dates and times listed below are the trading hours for December, January and the first few days in February.

December 2011
- Thursday 8th December - 1.00pm - 4.00pm (Second-hand Book Sale Day)
- Tuesday 13th December - 12.00pm - 2.00pm (Last day Uniform Shop is open for the year)

January 2012
- Monday 23rd January - 9.00am - 3.00pm (School Book Collection Day)

February 2012
- Friday 2nd February - 12.00pm - 2.00pm
- Monday 6th February - 8.00am - 10.00am (Year 7, 11 & 12 students commence this day)
- Tuesday 7th February - 12.00pm - 2.00pm (Year 8, 9 & 10 students commence this day)
- Thursday 9th February - 12.00pm - 2.00pm

Uniform Price List
Please find the 2012 Uniform Shop price list on page 11 of the newsletter.

2012 Student Diary
Each student will be given their 2012 College Diary on the first day of school.

Student’s Commence 2012
- Monday 6th February - Year 7, 11 & 12
- Tuesday 7th February - Year 8, 9 & 10
**Sue Fabisah’s**
**motherhood**
The good, the bad and the laundry
the musical

Are you looking for a great night out?
How about a Christmas get together and Girls night out?
Then gather up your friends and bring them along
to Camperdown’s Theatre Royal to see Motherhood the Musical
Wednesday 14th, December
Showtime @ 8.00pm
Tickets just $30.00 Adult
or $25.00 for Pen/Con/Student
You can buy your tickets at the Corangamite Shire Office 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown
or call Catherine O’Flynn on 5593 7100

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**Camperdown Community Carols 2011**

Please note, the date has changed.
Also, any singers out there – Come join the Choir.
Practice @ Uniting Church, Tuesdays, 7:30 pm.

2011 Date Tuesday Dec 20th
7:30 – 9 pm.
Theatre Royal, Camperdown
# MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE

## UNIFORM PRICE LIST

### Back to School 2012

Katrina Boyd - Uniform Shop Manager  
Phone: 0418 102 007  
Email: uniform@mercy.vic.edu.au

Please make cheques payable to: Fashion Clubwear

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