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 2012
Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Last week, the College and our nation recognized National Reconciliation Week, a time for all Australians to reflect upon the milestones achieved and challenges remaining in the long journey towards Reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. Reconciliation is an ongoing process and the importance of revisiting both the achievements of late and the challenges to come cannot be understated. As a Catholic school, Mercy Regional College holds as a core principle the sacredness of every human being regardless of their race, skin colour, religious affiliation or any other artificial classification. We must remain committed to reconciliation.

"...Reconciliation means knowing this country's history and acknowledging the bad as well as the good. It means understanding and embracing difference, of language, of culture, of Law. Reconciliation is about ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have their rights as the first peoples of this nation properly recognised and that recognition of those rights ensures them the same life chances as other Australians. Reconciliation is about acknowledging the wrongs of the past and pledging as a nation to right them.”

Linda Burney, former chair of NSW Reconciliation Council, 1999.

Their elders spoke at length of their connection with the land and the Creator Spirit that gave rise to it. They encourage us to a deeper, more profound listening in our lives, to open our spiritual selves to the immanent Spirit of the Great South Land, to embrace the ancient deep listening, dadirri.

DADIRRI IS LISTENING

Dadirri is deep listening.
Listening to the land.
Listening to the spirit speaking through the land.
Listening to the stillness.
Dadirri is awareness of the land as sacred Silent awareness of deep springs within me. I am the story of the land. I feel the harmony that is in the land.
My life is sacred.
A deep theme unfolding.
Dadirri makes me feel whole. Renews me and brings peace. My life is new.

Feast Day Mass and Battle of the Bands
On Tuesday 29th May, the entire Mercy Regional College community came together to celebrate our Feast Day. The day began with a College Eucharist that focused on the Year of Grace that has been declared across Australia and which began last month with Pentecost Sunday.

Thank you to Fr. Matthew Thomas for celebrating with us, to Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders for her meticulous organization and to all students and staff who assisted with readings, processions, distribution of communion and in the wonderful choir who led our congregation in singing. The day continued with a whole school assembly that affirmed students from all year levels who had excelled in a range of endeavours.
Our Feast Day celebrations concluded with an exciting and at times, overwhelming display of student and staff talent in the annual Mercy Battle of the Bands. Congratulations to all who were involved and particularly to the ‘Terrydactyls’ who received the most generous applause.

Some details, prayers and reflections on Year of Grace are included on pages 3-5 of the newsletter.

Opening and Blessing of Refurbishments at St Colman’s School
Last week, I was privileged to attend the official opening and blessing of the recent refurbishments at St Colman’s School, Mortlake. The renovations and refurbishments have been a number of years in the planning and are a fantastic testament to the commitment of the entire school community of St. Colman’s – parents, friends, students and staff. Congratulations to Mr. Michael Saunders, Principal of St. Colman’s for the vision and drive that underlies the project and to all the students who welcomed us with such hospitality on the day.

Mercy Regional College Open Day
A belated thanks to the many students, staff and parents who made the College’s Open Day on Wednesday 16th May such a success. Held for the first time entirely at the College’s O’Keeffe Campus, more than 70 students from across the school were involved in Campus tours for prospective 2013 students and in showcasing the activities available for students at Mercy. Almost 100 enrolment packs were distributed during the day/evening and a reminder to prospective students and their parents that 2013 enrolment applications need to be lodged by Friday 29th June.

End of Semester Examinations
Next week, a significant number of Mercy Year 11 and 12 students undertake their first set of VCAA examinations in Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Psychology and Accounting with all VCE students completing the three hour General Assessment Test (GAT) on Thursday 14th June. All in the Mercy Regional College community wish these students well at this important time.

Alongside the VCAA exams, all Mercy students from Years 7 - 11 will complete their end of semester exams next week. These exams constitute a fundamental part of the learning and teaching program for all year levels serving as an important summative assessment tool for teachers, a chance for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of material covered across the semester and the opportunity for students to develop proficiency in sitting and excelling under exam conditions.

At assemblies from Years 7 - 11, all students were reminded of the important place of exams within the College’s learning program and the need for them to spend sufficient time in the next week or so revising and preparing for the exams. End of semester reports will follow these examinations. Exam timetables are in the newsletter on pages 24-27.

Mercy Dinner
This newsletter includes the first advertisement for the College’s 7th Annual Mercy Dinner which will be held on Friday 27th July. The Mercy Dinner is a great opportunity for the broader College community – parents, friends and staff – to come together and celebrate the fantastic place that Mercy Regional College is. I encourage members of our school community to put together a table and join us for a night of good food, great talk and engaging music. Our guest speaker for the night will be Sarah Baker. Sarah was a student at Mercy from 1998 – 2003 and was school Captain in her last year here. Sarah has gone on to become a qualified Pharmacist and in partnership with Murray Fry they have opened a new Chemist in Camperdown. Please see advertising and ticket order form on pages 28 & 29 of this newsletter.

Notice Board on the College Website
In the last week, the College has upgraded one aspect of the school website with a new ‘School Notice Board’ section within the Parents section on the front page. This noticeboard will be updated regularly and will provide information to parents in a timely fashion regarding upcoming events and activities. I encourage parents, friends and students to routinely check it. The web address is http://www.mercy.vic.edu.au/noticeboard

Some Important Dates
A number of important days and events need to be highlighted:

- Tuesday12th - Thursday 14th June VCAA examinations
- Thursday 14th June (pm) Year 11 & 12 activities following GAT
- Friday 15th June
  - Year 12 Energizer Day (Port Campbell)
  - Year 11 Study Day (no classes)
  - Year 10 Issues Day (Road Safety)
- 18th - 20th June Year 10 & 11 examinations
- 18th & 19th June Year 7 - 9 examinations
- Friday 22nd June Correction Day (student free day)

Yours in Mercy,

DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL
My dear people:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

This year, the great Feast of Pentecost marks a significant stage in the life of the Australian Church. Over the next twelve months, just as the disciples at Pentecost committed themselves to follow the risen Christ, so too are we both called and challenged to start afresh from Christ (John 15:15), to walk in the knowledge of the wonderful fact at the heart of our faith—that Jesus Christ is present and active in us and in all creation.

PRESENCE OF JESUS

For some time now, the Australian Bishops have been reflecting deeply on the life of our Church in all its dimensions. I, with my brother Bishops, have rejoiced in the many blessings we have received from God while recognizing the many concerns we carry at this time.

The ultimate gift of God to humanity is Jesus Christ. God sent his only son to become one of us, to suffer, die and rise again so that we may have everlasting life. And in turn, the Spirit was given to us and to the Church at Pentecost. We recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Pentecost, the Spirit of the crucified and risen Lord—moving in the depths of our being, drawing people into just and loving communities, enriching our culture with truth and beauty, giving life and growth throughout the cosmos. We also recognize that just as we exist within and depend upon our natural environment, so do we live and move in the loving embrace of grace—the vast ocean of God's love in Christ entered into our hearts by the Spirit.

STRUGGLE OF FAITH

For many Catholics, however, their faith is a confusing, dry, even painful, matter. Broken by the failures and criminal behaviour of some church personnel, confused by the religious indifference of family and friends, unanswering about teachings and policies of the Church, many Catholics struggle with their faith and with belonging to their Church.

In the light of all these realities, the Australian Catholic Bishops resolved firstly to call each other to 'contemplate the face of Christ' so that our pastoral ministry of leadership may reflect more clearly the heart of Christ and then to invite all of you, God's faithful people, to journey with us.

INVITATION IN HOPE

This is an invitation to every Catholic in the Diocese and to all who care to take this journey with us, to participate in a Year of Grace from Pentecost 2002 to Pentecost 2003. By grace we mean God's free and loving gift to us. God's helping goodness, the vitality that comes from God... Grace is everything God grants us, without our deserving it in the least. (Youth Catechesis of the Catholic Church #46) This time will ask us to live more deeply the life of grace, and enter more consciously into relationship with our living and life-giving God.

At the turn of the millennium, Pope John Paul II spoke prophetically of a new era of hope and mission for the Church. He insisted this renewal of the Church is only possible if we “Start afresh from Christ.” In all our activities, organizations and communities, all Catholics are called to “contemplate the face of Jesus” (Mt 5:14) to seek the presence and will of Christ, and respond with generosity and brave hearts.

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in our homes, schools and parishes, I ask that you will join with me in prayer and action that throughout the Diocese we will be renewed by grace and sustained in faith that we may bring the love and presence of Christ to all with whom we come into contact.

Peter J. Comens
Bishop of Ballarat

Prayer for the Year of Grace

Gracious God
You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus. You ask that we may experience a new wave of grace and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.
Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationships healed and our nation grow in compassion and justice.
With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.
Tuning into Grace

The Year of Grace invites us into a spiritual journey of encountering Christ afresh in our lives through prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, celebrating liturgies, repenting of our failures and listening to the voice of the Spirit.

Here are some ways to ‘Tune In’ to the Grace in your own life and to ‘Start afresh from Christ’.

Be Still
Make a decision to slow down, create some space in your schedule, find a few minutes to tune in to your place in the cosmos, and in the ocean of God’s creative love.

Be Silent
Arrange for a little external silence, and you'll soon meet the cacophony going on inside you. The only path to real silence runs through the noise going on in your head and heart.

Be Centered on Jesus
Let Jesus’ name rest on your breath as it flows out and in, bringing your awareness into the centre of your body, the centre of your existence.

Be Aware
The fundamental Christian skill. Watch the thoughts, feelings and sensations that pass through your awareness. Don’t cling to them, don’t push them away. Just let them come and go.

Be Patient
Tuning in takes time and practice. When you get distracted or lose confidence, just return to your breathing and keep going. The saints say there is no spiritual growth without trials.

Be Grateful
Give thanks for the things that delight, encourage, amuse and stimulate you. Being grateful reduces stress, lets us see things differently and helps us process what really matters.

TIP
Practice tuning in to grace by looking back on the day, ‘rummaging through the stuff,’ and finding God in it. (Quote from ‘Rummaging for God: Praying Backwards through Your Day’ by Dennis Prager, S.J.)
Watch the Examen video at the Ignatian Spirituality site, http://ignatianspirituality.com/examen/praythewayoftheexamen/

Living Gracefully

The following are ways to further explore how you can learn more about the Year of Grace and also offers invitations to live gracefully in the various contexts of your faith life.

AT HOME
- Practice stillness and listening each day
- Take 5 minutes a day to read a Gospel passage
- Discuss the Table Grace questions at meal times
- Find/display your favourite image of Jesus
- Say grace before meals, work, everything
- Become more aware of Jesus in the Eucharist
- Ask the Holy Spirit each morning to guide and renew you
- Try praying as you go for a walk; work in the garden, prepare a meal; sit on the verandah
- Be interested in the spiritual life of all those close to you
- Share the Year of Grace message with guests and visitors to your home

IN YOUR PARISH / SCHOOLS / COMMUNITY
- Sign up for your Parish/Community Week of Prayer
- Talk with others about ways to nourish our spiritual life
- Pray the Year of Grace prayer every time you get공송
- Share signs of Christ’s presence with others
- Set aside time for a retreat; take part in a Retreat in Daily Life
- Invite a ‘best friend’ and discuss your prayer life over coffee
- Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Share the Year of Grace message with other people in your town or district
- Pray for the Church in Australia

DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL
- Check out the Diocesan Website Year of Grace page at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and keep up to date with activities and ways to celebrate the Year of Grace
- Subscribe to the Diocesan E-news for local Year of Grace updates and other information
- Go to the National Year of Grace website www.yogofgrace.catholic.org.au – sign up for the regular bulletin and download the resources available to assist in your celebrations

“Grace and human freedom go together. Grace does not conflict with our capacity to choose but brings our freedom to fuller expression. God, who loves us, wants to work with us and allow us to share in his work.”
Sr Nancy Harrison, God’s Many Splendoured Image

MAKING SPACE FOR GRACE

Suggestions for beginning a meeting, a gathering, or for use by yourself:
1. Light your Year of Grace candle
2. Take 5 deep breaths and just be still for a few minutes
3. Invite those present to reflect on and share about the Grace they have experienced in their lives today/this week
4. In what events or experiences do you hear the invitation to start afresh from Christ?
5. Pray together the Year of Grace prayer
TABLE GRACE
Regularly take some time around the dinner table to discuss the following questions. They are simply conversation starters and you are more than welcome to add your own.
You might begin by lighting your Year of Grace candle – being still – and finishing with a Year of Grace Prayer (e.g., the Prayer for Children).

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN
- What was the best gift you have ever received and why?
- Who is one person you really admire? What do you admire about them?
- Share one of your hopes about the future.
- Talk about your favourite hobby or pastime. Why do you like it?
- If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?
- Name three things that you like about yourself. Why?
- Talk about one person who has really helped you today.

CHILDREN’S PRAYER
Loving God
We know that you love us always, wherever we go and whatever we do.
The Year of Grace is a special time for us to remember just how important your love is.
During this year help us to think about Jesus and how he showed his love in the way he lived for others.
May your Holy Spirit help us to be more loving and forgiving.
Saint Mary Mackillop, help us to be more like Jesus.
We ask this prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE
Jesus,
as I contemplate your face,let me experience your great love for me.Reveal your saving grace and give me a grateful heart.
Heal me of my meekness and sin and fill me with compassion for others.
Gift me with the wisdom of the Spirit and encourage me to be a faithful witness to the Gospel.

What is GRACE?
Grace is the favour of God reaching out to us:
- drawing us into the intimacy of God’s own life – Father, Son and Spirit;
- a free and undeserved gift which heals the wounds of sin and makes us holy, transforms our thoughts and actions from within;
- makes us free to respond in love to God’s invitation to communion in the divine life.

What is a YEAR of GRACE?
At a holy time, given by God, to start afresh from Christ, contemplating his face, and listening to his words, that he may heal our wounds, overcome all our divisions and make us rich in hope, so that we may show forth his face and speak his word to the world in new ways.
Archbishop Peter Var enlarge, Chm, Bishop’s Working Party – Year of Grace

The Year of Grace is about:
- an encounter with Jesus.
The Year of Grace is to focus more on being rather than doing.
The Year of Grace is about naming and claiming grace.
The Year of Grace is about exploring Gospel values and asking “Where is Jesus?”

The material accompanying the Pastoral Letter has been provided by the Belfast Diocesan Year of Grace Task Group to assist you in celebrating your Year of Grace. You can find out more by contacting your local parish or school leaders, or contacting the Diocesan Coordinator at yearofgrace@belfast-catholic.org.uk.
Deputy Principal - Wellbeing
Mr. Kerin Glennen

Careers - Mock Interviews
Last week our Year 11 students took part in their mock interviews. Students were given a "job description" and had to submit a resume and a covering letter prior to their interview time.

Students then sat an "interview" with a Panel. The Panel consisted of people from local businesses, the education sector, various industry groups and the Corangamite Shire This week the students received their feedback from perspective employers.

Thank you to the Year 11s who took part in this activity. This program has many benefits for students, with the main one being the opportunity students have in experiencing a job interview as well as learning how they should dress for the interview.

Careers on Mercy Website
I would like to remind parents and students regarding information about Careers on our College website. To access this information "click" School or Students on the homepage toolbar then select Careers Information. Here you will find several options you can go to;
- Work Experience
- Weekly Career News, which all students in Years 9, 10,11 and 12 also have emailed to them each fortnight.
- Links – this section has a good number of links to Course Search, Job Guide, My Future and a good deal more to look up.

Please take the time to check out the information on the Home Page.

Alcohol & Drug Resource Book
Last week each family were sent the Alcohol & Drug resource book. This publication was developed by parents for parents. The topics are applicable for family discussion which may arise on topics of Alcohol and Drugs. Please do not disregard this publication but take time to explore it. The Corangamite and Moyne Secondary Schools should be commended for making such a good publication available.

Sexting
The term sexting although relatively new, describes a particular set of behaviours that have been occurring in Australia for over five years. The sending and receiving of sexually explicit imagers via mobile phones or other applications such as instant messaging, email or through the social network sites have until recently gone relatively unreported. What is of a concern is the rapid increase in popularity of these activities. On some occasions young girls are tricked into sending pictures that were not appropriate. As a community we need to embrace the development of technology however with this comes the necessity to use it for what it was developed for, not as a source of scorn and pain.

1. Install and update your security software; set it to scan regularly.
2. Turn on automatic updates on all your software, particularly your operating system and applications
3. Use strong passwords and different passwords for different uses.
4. Stop and think before you click on links or attachments.
5. Take care when transacting online – check the supplier and use a safe payment method.
6. Only download “apps” from reputable publishers and read all permission requests.
7. Regularly check your privacy settings on social networking sites.
8. Stop and think before you post any photos or financial information online.
9. Talk with your child about staying safe online, including on their smartphone or mobile device.
10. Report or talk to someone if you feel uncomfortable or threatened online – download the Government’s Cybersafety Help Button.
Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning
Mr. Chris Grant

End of Semester Exams
On Wednesday Dr Egberts and myself spoke to the Year 7 & 8 students about the upcoming exams, including preparation, expectations and students doing their best. This applies to all year levels as we look toward exams beginning on Tuesday 12/6/12 for Unit 3 Students and Monday 18/6/12 for Year 7 to 11 Students. We encourage you to take time to talk to your son or daughter about their preparation for exams, what they have done already and how you can further support them.

Students are continually encouraged to ask questions of their teachers in and outside of class and also via email to clarify any issues. This will ultimately assist in the students preparation for exams.

Here at Mercy we encourage all students to do their best and achieve to the best of their ability. This involves treating every exam very seriously, behaving correctly in exams and bringing the correct materials to the exam. Incorrect behaviour during the exams may result in withdrawal from the exam and a meeting with parent/guardian.

Exam timetables can be found inside this newsletter. We wish all students well for the upcoming exams.

Excessive use of the iPad
It has become apparent that some students are spending too much time on the internet and/or the iPad at home for the purpose of games. May I remind all families that the main purpose of the iPad should be for educational purposes, and not for gaming. It is therefore the parent/guardian responsibility to monitor usage on the iPad, digital device or computer at home to ensure its correct and controled usage.

Below is an exerpt from the College’s iPad Student User Guide that includes relevant information on excessive internet use.

Excessive internet use
Sometimes it seems that teens are constantly online. Often they seem to be multitasking: downloading and listening to music while studying and chatting with friends or sending messages on mobile phones. The number of hours teens spend online varies significantly. There is no ‘right’ amount of time for them to spend online; however, if their online behaviour impacts negatively on their wellbeing, or on that of the family, it may be appropriate to discuss expectations and to establish time limits.

2.10 Tips to help teens deal with excessive internet usage
- Look for signs that your teen may be spending too much time online. Signs include declining interest in other activities, talking constantly about online activity, dropping school grades or irritability when they are away from a game.
- You might suspect they are getting up after bed time to play games or chat to others. Teens may seem tired during the day or even skip meals to avoid leaving the computer. In these cases, consider establishing rules about when teens can play games or use the internet and how long they can play each day. You might establish an agreement with your teen on a set balance of online and offline activities. You may need to establish consequences for rule breaches. For example, if your teen doesn’t complete assigned chores, they may have their access to online games restricted.
- Try to put computers and iPads, even mobile phones, in a shared or visible place at home so you are aware of when your teen is online.
- If you are concerned about your teen’s online behaviour, explore your concerns with them. If necessary, seek professional support, including support through the Cybersmart Online Helpline at http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Teens/Online%20help.aspx. The Cybersmart Online Helpline provides free, confidential online counselling for children and young people.
- Students can seek guidance from their Homeroom Teacher or Year Level Coordinator or make an appointment, via the Front Office, with the Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

VCE Dance Report
Mrs. Freya Egberts

In the last month, the VCE Unit 1 dance class has been working on their learnt dance work ahead of a performance in Geelong at the Costa Centre of Performing Arts, Sacred Heart College next Friday night.

The work explores the important issue of asylum seekers and their experiences in their country of origin, on the ocean journey itself and, on arrival, here in Australia. The dance draws heavily on the work of Sr. Lizzie Finnerty RSM who spoke to all Mercy staff earlier this term.

Parents and friends are welcome to attend. Please contact me at the College on 5593 2011 for further details.
Mary Help of Christians Feast Day Mass
A wonderful celebration was held on Tuesday 29th May to celebrate our school feast day. The Mass was celebrated in a respectful and joyful manner by the whole school community. The theme of the Mass was “The Year of Grace”, which we are called to this liturgical year. The students were reminded that God’s grace is given without judgement or expectation; we all have the capability to mirror the lives of Jesus, to receive this unconditional love and to give it. In our busy lives it is often difficult to find the space for contemplation and prayer, but we are challenged to try. The Diocese of Ballarat has supplied bookmarks for the students and prayer cards which will be distributed to each year level soon.

When we gather as a whole community we number almost 600 now and so the coordination of such an event requires much team work. Thanks need to go to the wonderful choir of junior students and the special senior students who sang also. Under the guidance of Mr. Luke Bourchier and Mrs. Janet Backhouse, they filled our Feast Day celebration with song, which was so very uplifting. Thanks also to Mrs. Michelle Mackinnon for training our choir on a weekly basis. Of course in order to hear our choristers we needed a strong sound system and this was set up and packed up by Mr. Bourchier, Mr. Forbes, Mr. John Hickey and our resident sound guru, student, Louis Hickey.

I would also like to thank the RE faculty for assistance with prayers and selecting students to participate. To our readers, those who brought forward the offertory, the gospel and to those students who participated by being extra ordinary special ministers of the Eucharist, it is wonderful to have so many students participating. To set the stadium is an enormous task and I would like to thank Danny Gordon and Mark Evans for their dedication to this immense job. The stadium was further enhanced by the floral arrangements provided by the St Patrick’s Parish floral Art group. The flowers reflected our school colours of maroon and gold.
Fr. Matthew was our celebrant on the day and encouraged us to understand more fully the gifts of the spirit and how we recognise them in our daily lives. There was also a focus on Reconciliation week as well as our Feast Day Patroness, Mary Help of Christians.

Student Helpers
Jordyn Hickey, Lucretia Bell
Jacoba Mungean Rachel Vagg & Stephanie Smart
Any McKenzie, Joseph Arundell & Lucy Battistello
Kris Noonan, Lachie Evers, Laura Kemp, Maggie Lee
Rachael Harney, Rachel Hickey, Elizabeth Smart, Meg Lenehan

Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Jo Saunders

Choir Members
Kat Atkins, Shai Carney, Tara Suri, Ripley Watt, Sherry Zu, Brooke McInnes, Kasey Zentai, Charlie Pollard, Paige Gibson, Jen Rowan, Toby McKenzie
An early morning wake up call, the Seeds of Justice conference beckoned to us, for an unforgettable first time experience.

Three hours in the car and we finally arrived at Templestowe Holy Cross centre. The picturesque setting, situated in a neighbourhood of mansions, made us all wonder what we were all getting ourselves into. However, surrounded by sprawling grounds and beautiful monuments the centre - where we stayed comfortably overnight - seemed the perfect, peaceful setting for the learning, planning and moments of contemplation that filled the next two days.

Four senior students, Caitlin Wallis, Kerry Geppert, Laura McKenzie, Elizabeth Smart and Mrs. Leesa Henrikson attended the conference in representation of Mercy Regional College along with students and staff from eight other Mercy schools state wide.

The conference was most certainly a step into 'girl world' with the exception of one brave male student from Mount Lilydale Mercy College. The aim for many groups before the next meeting in August is to source and motivate some more male participants to partake in the next Seeds event. So to any boys, who like simply to 'help' others, be it through actions or simply words, put yourself out there.

Industrious and jovial, the first keynote speaker, Sr. Giovanna shared with students, stories about her time working as a prison chaplain at Port Phillip Prison, Dame Phyllis Frost centre and alternate roles at the Melbourne Remand Centre and Melbourne Assessment Place. Well experienced with people, a former school principal of a number of Mercy schools, Sr. Giovanna urged us to open our hearts and view people with unbiased opinions. She reminded us that everyone is someone's daughter, son, parent, partner and all humans require connection with others. Sr. Giovanna also strove to share the stark and shocking aspects of the Victorian prison system with us. Statistics such as a 49% rise in the crime rate in the past 10 years particularly surprised the audience.

Following a fabulous hot lunch many of the participants, especially those who had had early starts - i.e. Camperdown and Noorat residents - were quite content to have a snooze, but nonetheless we soldiered on.

In the spirit of Mercy we learnt to expect the unexpected as not every aspect of the conference ran according to plan or schedule as we learnt.

In lieu of an absent speaker in the afternoon, we watched a documentary about the role music plays in the rehabilitation of prisoners and the repercussions of actions, as many of the prisoners came from disadvantaged and disrupted childhoods.

The hot lunch made sense when we found that we were to be distributed around the city in community placements in the early evening, taking a packed lunch. Students were given the choice of several placements in mostly Mercy establishments. Several nursing homes and high care dementia wards were on offer, as well as soup vans in Collingwood and with Fr. Bob Maguire, a visit to the aboriginal community centre, Exodus Community - a charity house and McAuley House a women's shelter.

Caitlin, Elizabeth and Leesa visited McAuley House, a women's shelter. Here we spent time 'pampering' the women, painting toe nails and giving hand massages with lots of hand cream! One lady even asked if we'd brought our scissors, she felt like a haircut!

The range of women at the shelter really surprised the group. The numbers of the group actually outnumbered the women who came down to spend time with us, however warm and friendly conversations quickly eventuated. It was interesting to see the facilities at the house, as the centre broke all stereotypical ideas that the girls in attendance had of a women's shelter.

Laura and Kerry attended the Exodus Community House in West Heidelberg. They were immediately immersed in the experience when greeted by a middle aged woman, Max, whose appearance was not one they were expecting to be running a charitable organisation.

Max explained what she and the other volunteers did around the community their many initiatives of the charity group. They undertake bread runs with donated goods and conduct family nights and craft activities for isolated women. However the main program 'Kids in the Shed', was what Kerry and Laura were most intrigued by. The program attempts to get young kids off the streets after school, help them with homework, and teach them skills such as cooking and using technology. It runs in the backyard shed of Max's house.
For the 'country' girls it was a surreal experience to walk the streets of West Heidelberg, which in a literal and cultural sense is a million miles away from Camperdown. Kerry and Laura were shown around the local community centre and met with some young volunteers whom were preparing to travel around Australia and run camps for underprivileged children.

The most striking part of the organisation, that Kerry and Laura found, was the sense of community in the area. Max's motto closely aligns with the girls' finding, "If one community member struggles then we all struggle," this message gave the girls a good insight into just how lucky we all are.

Friday morning brought more opportunity for reflection on us and our role as Mercy people. There was welcome quiet time for further contemplation of the prior evening's events and the role of Mercy in the community, as not necessarily doing things, but simply being with people.

Mr. Allan Ansell, Chaplain and teacher at Sacred Heart College Geelong spoke about the experience of Mercy he has had over several trips with Sacred Heart Students to Papua and New Guinea. Allan spoke about seeing Mercy in action through the students he took to visit remote villages in the mountainous regions of PNG. Sharing many funny anecdotes, interspersed with stories of sadness and shock at the conditions in which the disadvantaged live in the islands, Allan stressed the important role that the Sisters of Mercy - working in Papua and New Guinea - have in the lives of the local people. The most poignant story, being the girls who went deciding to leave in PNG almost all the possessions they took, to be distributed by the Sisters, to people in need.

Such a story of adventure and compassion motivated many of the school groups to aim to conduct such programs as well. Presently, the MRC Social Justice group's aims are a little closer to home, in simply promoting the importance of social justice and what participation involves. Promotion that will hopefully be the impetus for a rise in interest and numbers at meetings to come; with another Seeds experience available to five students, ideally Year 11s, in August.

One of the key aspects of the experience was the opportunity to meet students with like interests from other Mercy schools. Ideas we shared not only amongst school groups, but also among new friends.

Each story told conveyed the idea that in acts of selflessness, like those of Sr. Giovanna and the Sacred Heart College students, compassion was shown with almost reckless abandon, as they willingly left behind their fears and stereotypical ideas to help other human beings.

Each participant experienced this in a small way, stepping out of their comfort zones for a few hours on placement. Discovering the best part of the experience was learning how much a smile, kind word or gesture could change the world of another.

We drove home on the 'wettest day in May' and at points a boat looked like a more hopeful mode of transport than the car. After an outstanding performance from Leesa 'the incredible driver', we all made it home safe and sound, but thoroughly worn out after such eventful days, with 'seeds of justice' firmly planted within our hearts or as Sr. Giovanna put it "rahamim".

**Mercy’s Annual Battle of the Bands**
Mr. Luke Bourchier

The 29th May 2012 brought more talented students to the stage for the annual Battle of the Bands. Three acts featured songs by the popular artist 'Adele'. Mereanna Vickers sung beautifully, accompanied by Millie Moloney on keys. Kat Atkins, Brooke Urek, Tara Suri and Shai Karney were the second vocal group where Adele featured, supported by the skills of Ashley Uy on the keyboard. Finally, Zoe Wagstaff's efforts leading bandmates Liam Parker, Charlie Pollard and Alex Wallace featured the third Adele for the afternoon. Laura Glennen and Kirsty Almond performed well together as a duo, as did last year's battle winners Maddi Bone and Lili Van Donk who were joined by seasoned electric guitarist, Tim Van der Schans.

The energy levels of the stadium where given a shunt when 'The Terrydactyls' hit the stage, featuring Daniel Unwin, James Keough, Jake Rowbottom and Callum Humphrys, all of whom are skilled performers.

The afternoon was, as always, rounded off with members of staff playing some classic and modern hits. The staff welcomed the inclusion of Freya Egberts on vocals.

Congratulations must be awarded to all participants. It is a delight to be entertained by some up-and-coming talent and some who are already very skilled entertainers. Special mentions went to Zoe, Liam, Charlie and Alex who were runners-up in the battle according to the judges, but there was no matching the unrivalled skill of the Terrydactyls who were awarded first place.

A great big thank you goes to Louis Hickey and John Hickey for donating their time an expertise in setting up the majority of the music equipment, and operating the sound on the day.
Head of Senior School
Mr. James Castles

Year 11 and 12 Students
The following information is about the Unit 3/4 Exams, GAT, Year 12 Study Day, Energizer Day, Footy Colours Night and the Year 11 Study Day.

Unit 3/4 Exams
On Tuesday 12th June and Wednesday 13th June, students can choose to stay at home the day before their exam to study or come to school to study. If students choose to come into school they must be in full uniform. All students are required to come back to school after their exams. Please note that students sitting only the GAT exam during that week are required to be at school the day before the GAT. Students not sitting the GAT are required at school for classes as normal.

June Examinations and GAT timetable
Each examination commences with a 15 min. reading period which is included in the times shown in the exam timetable below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Exam No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 12 JUNE</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:45am</td>
<td>Biology Exam 1</td>
<td>11:45am – 1:30pm Physics Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE</td>
<td>9:00am – 10:45am</td>
<td>Psychology Exam 1</td>
<td>11:45am – 1:30pm Chemistry Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY 14 JUNE</td>
<td>10:00am – 1:15pm</td>
<td>General Achievement Test (GAT)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 12 Energizer Day and Footy Colours Night (Friday June 15th)
So far we have 100 people attending the Footy Colours Night and would love to see it gets to 150 plus, let’s do it!! Please ensure that you get your notes back regarding both the Energizer Day and Footy Colours Night. They will be a great way to finish off what has been a busy semester.

Year 11 (Friday June 15th)
All Year 11 students will be given a day to study at home. This time should be used to prepare for your exams the following week.

2012 Mercy Running Club Information
The Mercy Running Club is on again this year. Information and permission forms can be accessed from our College website. Please go to www.mercy.vic.edu.au open Parents on the toolbar, then click “School Notice Board”, here you will find under the heading “Mercy Running Club” two documents are available to open and read or you can download them and print them off.

Mr. James Castles
Mrs. Berni Sinnott
Running Club Coordinators
Head of Senior Teaching & Learning
Mr. Lachie Lee

Year 11 Exams
The MRC Exam program for those Year 10 and Year 11 students who are studying a Unit 1 subject will be held from Monday 18th June until Wednesday 20th June. All students who are studying VCE subjects are expected to be in attendance for these exams. Those students, who are studying a part or whole VCAL course of study, are expected at school and VCAL classes will continue as normal. Year 11 students have been given the day off on Friday 15th June as outlined in the instructions from Mr. Castles as attached to this newsletter. Again, this is a study day to enable them to prepare for their exams. If, for some reason, the students wish to attend school on this, or any study day, they are expected to be in school uniform; they are expected to work with a teacher in their designated classroom or, if space is available, to work in the library.

Please find attached the Year 11 Exam timetable on page 24 of the newsletter.

If there are any queries please contact Mr. Chris Grant, Mr. James Castles, Mrs. Lesa Thornton or myself at the school.

Year 12 Exams and the GAT
The VCE Exam program for those Year 11 & 12 students studying a Unit 3 subject will begin on Tuesday 12th June and be completed with the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Thursday 14th June. All students who are studying a Unit 3 subject this year are required to do the GAT. It is an essential part of assessment process. I have included a statement from VCAA regarding the GAT. This was also included on the last newsletter.

Although GAT results do not count directly towards a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school assessments and examinations have been accurately assessed, and in determining Derived Examination Scores. So it is important to sit the GAT and do as well as possible on all parts of it.

The GAT is used in these ways because achievement on the GAT is a good predictor of achievement on other assessments. If students have done well on the GAT, then their achievements are likely to be high on their school assessments and examinations.

Clearly, some GAT questions relate more closely to achievement in particular studies. The VCAA takes this into account when it calculates students’ expected achievements in each study for each school. For example, GAT results in mathematics, science and technology play only a minor part in calculating students’ expected achievements in humanities studies.

All students have received a copy of the VCE EXAMS NAVIGATOR 2012 which provide extensive information concerning approved materials and equipment for the GAT and written examinations; VCAA guidelines and rules; timetables; special provision and other issues regarding the examination process. Parents and students can access this document VCE EXAMS NAVIGATOR 2012 via our website. Please go to our website home page, click Parents on the toolbar, then Notice Board, then VCAA Website.

Year 7 Humanities Artifact Research & Presentations
Mrs. Sharyn Grinter

As part of our work in the History unit on “Uncovering the Past” the students, again this year, were assigned the task of sourcing an item that is a valued part of their family history. They were required to present this to the class along with the necessary researched information about the background and why it is a precious item to those concerned.

Thanks to all families who assisted their daughters and sons with this assignment, it is always a favourite amongst staff who looks forward to the wide variety of artifacts that are brought along.

Kaitlyn Atkins - Lamp found in Egypt by her tomb raiding Great Great Grandmother!
Shelbie Carlin - 1935 Coloured comic found when renovating their home.

Maggie Suhan - Doll belonging to her Grandma, Frances Ewing.

Brooke Urek - Teddy belonging to her Vaudeville actor Grandfather and used in his acts.

Jim O'Sullivan - Great Grandpa's Kilt

Grace Henderson - Telephone found at their family business, Star Printing.
**Try a Career Day**  
*Report by: Jessica Bell & Jessica McIntosh*

Last Friday, 1st June, all year 9’s went up to South-West TAFE at Sherwood Park for the TAFE tester day! There, we participated in three different career opportunities.

The day was planned to give us an insight of what we would like to study throughout our following years at school, and what career we would like to pursue once leaving school. We learnt a range of skills ranging from learning to fish-tail braid hair to making dustpans in engineering.

Prior to the day, each student chose their four preferences of what each individual would study if they chose to begin a TAFE course.

The day was worthwhile and very productive. Each year nine really enjoyed the day.
Interschool Cross Country  
Mr. Charlie Bradshaw  

A group of Mercy runners recently took part in the 2012 Interschool Cross Country which was held in Camperdown.

A perfect day for running in sunny weather and little wind resulted in an overall win for the college as well as a number age champions.

Not only did Mercy have the best runners they all also had the largest amount of students willing to participate with a number of representatives present in all age groups, in particular the senior runners who set a great example.

We also have a number of students who have progressed to the next round of Barwon South West Cross Country. Well done to all students who participated on the day.

Age Champions
Hannah Justin U/13
Josh Hickey U/14
Marnie Jones & Haylee Davis U/15
Declan O'Connor U/18

Library News  
Mrs. Maureen O'Loughlan  

To celebrate the National Year of Reading 2012, we are exploring ways to share our love of literature. The Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge is gaining momentum and participants are well on the way to achieving their goal of reading 15 books by 10th September. A wide range of books are being tackled, enjoyed and shared!

I would also like to highlight Georgia Lucas who has done an excellent job of reviewing a book that she has recently enjoyed.

Thanks Georgia - and well done!

BOOK REVIEW  
Georgia Lucas - 9B

Georgia, what book have you chosen to review today? Why?
I have chosen to review Stresshead written by Allayne Webster. I chose it because it stood out and after reading the blurb it related to what being a teenager is sometimes all about and that made me want to read it.

What major emotion did the story evoke in you as a reader?
In this book I got mixed emotions through-out because the book had many different things happening. One minute I was happy - but then something would happen and I was curious and sad at the same time.

Name your favourite part of the book
I had two equal favourite parts in the book - when Dennie confronts her Mum about her concern of her health and they have a big deep conversation. It was very real, like a daughter may have with her Mum. The other part was near the end when Dennie loses it and starts saying everything that comes to her mind and just breaks down. This is because she has so much on her plate that she can't handle all the pressure anymore with everything going on in her life.

Describe the main character - or a character you particularly liked
Dennie is just an average teenager whose parents are expecting her to be exactly like them and become a lawyer. With her parents, brother and sisters all going down the same pathway, she thinks she has no choice of becoming what she wants. She has the normal teenage life; she has a boyfriend, a best friend and is studying hard for school. She is a girl who cares for her family but needs her space at the same time! In the story she has her own problems and needs someone there for her, but being the type of girl she is, she takes on everyone's problems and helps them out. Dennie is waiting for her Year 11 results throughout the book and is thinking she is going to fail which makes her stress the whole way through the book, hence the title "Stresshead".

Would you recommend it?
I would recommend this to teenage girls or young adults because most of them will or would be able to relate to the events happening in the book.

Rating:
Excellent - couldn't put it down!


**Coming Dates**

**TERM 2**

11 June
* Queen's Birthday Holiday - No school for Students

12 June - 14 June
* VCE Unit 3 Exams

14 June
* Year 11 & 12 activities following the GAT

15 June
* Year 10 Issues Day
* Year 12 Energiser Day - Port Campbell
  Footy Colours Night
* Year 11 Study Day

18 June
* Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Exams

19 June
* Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Exams

20 June
* Years 10 & 11 Exams
* Unit 3 Outdoor Ed Camp @ Grampians

21 June
* Unit 3 OE Camp @ Grampians
* BSW Cross Country

22 June
* Unit 3 Outdoor Ed Camp @ Grampians
* Student Free Day - Exam Correction

25 June
* PTFA Meeting (7:30PM) - O'Keeffe Campus

28 June
* Year 11 Energiser Day - Colac

29 June
* Term 2 concludes, students finish @ 2:10pm

**TERM 3**

16 July
* Commencement of Term 3 for Staff & Students

19 July
* HSSSD Basketball - Intermediate & Senior

24 - 27 July
* Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Camp to Mt. Buller

31 July
* Year 7 - 2013 Enrolment Interviews

1 August
* Year 7 - 2013 Enrolment Interviews

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**An Invitation to all 2012 Year 9 and 10 students**

The **SCIENCE EXPERIENCE**

- **ENJOY** 2-4 days in which you will be introduced to some of the wonders of science and technology
- **PERFORM** interesting experiments in university laboratories
- **HEAR** leaders in science, technology and engineering
- **LEARN** about careers in science and technology
- **LOCATED** in 37 Universities & Tertiary Institutions around Australia
- **PROGRAMS** are non-selective
- **COST** is $110 (incl. GST) for
  2-3 day program & $145 (incl. GST) for 4 day program
- **SPONSORSHIP** is available through Rotary.

Further information and application forms are available from your school, local Rotary club or The Science Experience website. Early application is advised.

The Science Experience
PO Box 514
BAYSWATER VIC 3153
Ph: 03 8288 1001

**For more information about the Science Experience.**

Please contact Mrs. Leanne Carpenter
at the College office on 5593 2011.
Central Australia Trip
We have four places available if interested in going on the trip in September. Contact the College office.

Instrumental Music Concert
You are invited to perform at the Inaugural ‘Jean Wood Jam in June’, an Instrumental Music Concert for local instrumental music students. The ‘Jam’ is being held on Friday, 22 June at Noorat Primary School Hall at 7pm. Forms were in the last newsletter or can be obtained from the College office.

Chocolate Drive
Chocolate money ($50 per box) must be returned before the end of this term Friday 29th June.

Corangamite Shire Holiday Program
The Shire has two trips planned for the next school holidays. 10 Pin Bowling in Ballarat and Luna Park. If interested pick-up a form from the College office.

Keys Please
Parents are encouraged to attend this night with their son/daughter. See information below.
What Would I Like to Be?

Who do we ‘look up to’ today? Who do we aspire to be like, to emulate? Who are our heroes? All of us need role models, no matter what our age or station in life. They provide an example, something to aspire to, to give us courage, to give us hope. The best known and perhaps most enduring stories in the world are those that deal with heroes and heroines, those who have triumphed over danger or hardship, suffering, opposition, misunderstanding to achieve some noble goal, to enable right to triumph over wrong, to enable justice to prevail. They fired our imagination when we were young and such stories can still inspire today. Jessica Watson’s solo around the world voyage, for example, captured the minds and hearts of many, many people. Do you remember Clif Young, the sixty one year old potato farmer who won the Sydney to Melbourne ultramarathon?

Who are your role models? We live in a celebrity culture, and young people, in particular are often encouraged to model themselves on figures from the world of sport or entertainment. That raises the question, what are the qualities we see in others that we would most like to have ourselves?

Spiritual writer, Fr Ronald Rolheiser suggests that: Inside our culture today, celebrities are the new saints - and the magazines, television programs, and Internet sites that photograph their persons and give us intimate details of their lives are, for large parts of our culture, the spiritual reading for our time. That is what it is, both for good and bad; we need to realize how deeply we are swayed by these images... (Newsletter Fr Ronald Rolheiser 2011-09-35)

Our insatiable appetite for news, any news has brought with it an acceptance of intrusion into people’s lives. The News of the World hacking scandal went on for years because it sold newspapers! Perhaps this seemingly insatiable appetite brings with it a certain gullibility. We tend to accept everything we are told as being true – we live in a world of spin.

A few years ago, for example, a teacher friend told me how he had shown the film ‘JFK’ to his students. When she indicated that there were many factual errors in the film, her students were quite skeptical about her views, despite the fact that she had lived through that era and the events depicted by the film. Because it was on this pseudo-documentary film, it must be true. On the other hand, a large number of students in one year twelve class I taught, in response to the question “Who do you most admire today?” named four of Australia’s financial entrepreneurs – two of whom ended up in jail and one a fugitive from the law.

So what? We need to realise just how deeply we are swayed by the images we see in film and the media. Magazines, television programs, and Internet sites are filled with photographs and intimate details of the lives of so many ‘celebrities.’ At the tender age of twenty or thirty, some are even writing their life story. These celebrities have become the heroes of our time, their opinions are very influential, as is their lifestyle.

Asking ‘what kind of person would you really like to be?’ gets us in touch with the desires which are the core of our lives. That is where God speaks to us most intimately. God works through our deepest and sometimes unspoken desires in order to awaken our hearts. Today, we are all too eager for immediate answers but there are many different paths to God. Sometimes it takes a while to discover the right ones. That requires an honest approach, an openness to change, to facing the truth. Psalms 105 and 139 remind us, God meets us where we are, and deep and lasting change takes time. God works through our human desires to help become the person God has known from all eternity. Knowing our desire, our need for companionship, for example, God invites us into friendship and we come to know that true friendship is not possessive but is open and welcoming of others.

Such a friendship can help us realize that having money makes it possible to be generous and to do good in the world, but on its own, it is not enough to make us happy. Being highly skilled in some activity or profession is good, but it will not satisfy us. It might make us famous, but it will not make us happy. We need to aim for something greater still. Happiness is something we all want. Many people never find happiness because they look for it in the wrong places. True happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God.

Pope Benedict spoke to the students in Catholic schools across Britain. He said that:

God wants your friendship. And once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change. As you come to know him better, you find you want to reflect something of God’s infinite goodness in your own life. You begin to see greed and selfishness for what they really are; destructive and dangerous tendencies that cause deep suffering and do great damage, and you want to avoid falling into that trap yourselves. You begin to feel compassion for people in difficulties and you are eager to do something to help them. You want to come to the aid of the poor and the hungry, you want to comfort the sorrowful, you want to be kind and generous.

Isn’t that the kind of person we want to be?

Regards
Jim Quilliman
Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquilliman@cdcsnet.au

What Would I Like to Be? 15 May 2012

Funded and published by Catholic Education Office, Sale for schools in the diocese.
FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

Research shows that there has been a steady decline in the number of school leavers applying for Agricultural related courses in Australia. Many young people are put off the thought of a career in agriculture due to media influences and the thought that it isn’t a ‘glamorous’ career.

Agriculture isn’t just farming-
It is focused on “the entire food chain, managing the environment and minimising the impact of human endeavours on natural resources”.

About 50% of all jobs in the agriculture industry are in capital cities. These jobs include environmental management, research / development, agribusiness and education.

Agriculture is a major skills shortage area. During the last decade, tens of thousands of workers in the agriculture industry have switched jobs to different career areas due to the drought and other economic factors.

This has left an enormous gap in the employment market and over the next decade, the demand for agricultural graduates will be huge. In Australia, we need around 2000 graduates to fill positions each year and less than 800 young people are completing agricultural related degrees.

This means that graduates can demand high salaries and have solid employment outcomes, often being offered lucrative jobs before even completing their degrees.

Experts are needed in the areas of
- Sustainable farming practices
- Land management
- Land conservation
- Climate change practices
- Food security
- Agricultural research and policy making.

Pre requisites for courses vary, as do entrance requirements and ATAR cut offs.

To search for university level courses, go to:
  Victoria  www.vtac.edu.au
  NSW  www.unc.edu.au
  Tasmania  www.utas.edu.au

For Tafe level courses, go to:
  Victoria  www.tafe.vic.gov.au
  NSW  www.tafe.nsw.edu.au

Meet Luke Visser. He is studying the Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the University of Melbourne, second year. Luke grew up on a farm at Stanley, Victoria. He would like to pursue agronomy and farm in a rural area when he graduates. Luke loves the course and has found it easy to make friends as most of the students have moved from rural areas as well.

Students can specialise in areas such as
- Economics
- Marketing
- Animal and plant biotechnology
- Catchment management
- Climate change impacts
- Crop management and production
- Plant and soil science
- Nutrition and feed production
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Water management, and
- Rural business practices

More information:
Check out Steph Coombe’s website about careers in agriculture- http://ausagcareers.tumblr.com/

On Track, Rural Skills Australia,
VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Interested in Performing Arts? The 2012 graduating acting class of the University of Ballarat are presenting William Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’ during June. You have the opportunity to attend a performance. For dates and to buy tickets, go to www.ballarat.edu.au/schools/education-and-arts/arts-academy/events/buy-tickets

My University Website: This website allows you to select and compare the cost and selection criteria of similar courses, compare statistical data between universities, find courses across Australia, and compare graduate outcomes and student satisfaction data between universities and courses. This website will assist you to make an informed decision about your future course choices. Go to www.myuniversity.gov.au/

Planning to apply for a TAFE course in 2013? You may have heard that the Victorian Government has recently made funding cuts to some courses. If you are planning to study at TAFE next year, you should contact the institute you would like to study at and ask them if your desired course will be affected. For a list of Victorian TAFE Institutes, go to www.tafe.vic.gov.au.

The Australian Maritime College at the University of Tasmania are running a competition for interstate students to win a trip to their Open Day on Sunday 26 August. To enter, please visit www.amc.edu.au/openday

Are you interested in Mathematics and Health? Have you considered Health Analytics? What about Health Informatics? Or Epidemiology? There are skill shortages in these occupations and you will need to have skills in analysis, math’s, logical reasoning, problem solving and communication.

You can study these courses and majors at most of the Victorian universities. Use the course search facility through www.vtac.edu.au to explore your options.

VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

New Science & Engineering Precinct at the University of Ballarat: Responding to the critical skills shortage in all engineering fields, as of 2013 students will study in the brand new $43m Science & Engineering precinct.

Their Manufacturing Technology Training Centre will consolidate articulated learning pathways in manufacturing technology and provide space for Mechatronics, Robotics, Computer automation, Manufacturing and Welding metal fabrication. For more information, go to www.ballarat.edu.au

Are you passionate about Science? Have you considered studying Pharmaceutical Science? This is the chemistry, biology and technology of medicines. It plays a core role in improving human health and wellbeing by researching and developing reliable, accessible and effective treatments for patients.

You can study Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the following Victorian universities: Monash, RMIT and La Trobe. Use the course search facility through www.vtac.edu.au to explore your options.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Folio Preparation Program: If you are planning to apply for a course that requires an art or design folio, you may benefit from undertaking a folio preparation program. La Trobe University is running a two day intensive folio preparation program at their Bendigo Campus on 2 – 3 July. For further information please contact Jennifer on 03 5444 7969, juren@latrobe.edu.au

Marine Science Careers Day: On Monday 23 July, the Melbourne Aquarium Underwater Zoo will be running a careers day for students interested in Marine Sciences. You will be able to listen to specialised presentations from expert industry participants and view exhibits from universities and marine science organisations. To register, go to www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/education/students/marine-science-careers-day-2012
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Computer Games Boot Camp:** An event run by the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University for Year 9 to Year 12 students to experience everything connected to computer games. If you are interested in becoming a professional gamer, building and designing games or simply playing games this event is for you! It is a week long program running between Saturday 7 July – Friday 13 July at the Clayton Campus. For more information, go to www.it.monash.edu/c dbc

**JUNE EVENTS**

- **12:** Year 10 Information Evening, Deakin University, Geelong Campus, www.deakin.edu.au/future-students
- **15:** Creative Arts Industry Day, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus, www.acu.edu.au/15573
- **16:** Experience La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga Campus, www.latrobe.edu.au/experience
- **19:** Tertiary Options Seminar, Monash University, Peninsula Campus, www.monash.edu/peninsula
- **19 & 26:** MyDay Events, Charles Sturt University, Policing, Justice Studies & Psychology- Bathurst Campus (19), Creative Industries- Wagga Campus (26), www.csu.edu.au/myday
- **24:** Open Day, Victoria University, Footscray Campus, www.vu.edu.au/events/open-day-2012

**JULY EVENTS**

- **RMIT Experience Days,** Medical Laboratory Visits (2 – 6), Computing, Animation and Information Technology (3), Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (3), Electrical and Computer Engineering (5 & 6), Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations (10), Community Justice (11) and Health and Medical Sciences (12), www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays
- **3 – 5:** Monash Art, Design & Architecture Workshops, Caulfield Campus, www.artdes.monash.edu.au/study/workshops
- **4:** Melbourne JD Showcase, Melbourne Law School, www.jd.unimelb.edu.au/schools
- **4:** Education and Health Science University Experience, Australian Catholic University, Ballarat campus, www.acu.edu.au/97108
- **4:** Year 10 Information Session, Monash University, Clayton Campus, www.monash.edu.au/study/options/schools/events.html
- **4 – 6:** VCA Acting Workshops, GO TAFE Benalla, vca-perfartshortcourses@unimelb.edu.au
- **5 & 13:** Experience La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus (5) and Bundoora Campus (13), www.latrobe.edu.au/experience
- **10:** Discover Deakin University, Burwood, Geelong Waurn Ponds & Geelong Waterfront campuses, www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/campus-tours/discover.php
- **10, 12, 13:** Nursing & Midwifery Information Evenings, Deakin University, Burwood (10), Geelong Waterfront (12) and Warrnambool (13) campuses, www.deakin.edu.au/health/future-students/course-info-nights.php
- **25, 26:** Parent Information Evenings, Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront (25), Melbourne Burwood (26), www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/parents/parents-info.php
- **27 Jul – 9 Aug:** Student Exhibition, Photographic Imaging College, Hawthorne, www.pic.org.au
Changing families

Separation can be difficult for parents but it’s particularly hard on children.

This parenting program is an information session that assists parents to understand the changing needs of their families. If you are recently separated or if it has been some time this session will provide useful information for all parents.

Topics covered include:
- The challenges of separated parenting
- Effective communication & parenting strategies
- Self care and supports
- Information on Family Dispute Resolution

Date: Mon June 18
Time: 7pm - 8:30pm
Venue: Emmanuel College Canterbury Road Campus Chapel
RSVP by June 13 via email to: rsvp@emmanuel.vic.edu.au or phone 5560 0840

Better, Stronger, Together.
ATTENTION PARENTS

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN

THERE ARE STILL SOME EXCITING WEEKS AHEAD:

Due to the success of the campaign so far, Woolworths are extending the program until:

**Monday 12th August 2012**

That's three more weeks to earn valuable stickers for your school.

Woolworths are having a "Double Stickers" promotion kicking off next week. From Monday 11th June until Tuesday 19th June, all customers who buy specially marked products will be eligible for double stickers on their total shop. As long as you spend more than $10 and include a product from one of eight big brands, including Dove Beauty, Lipton & Flora, you will earn twice as many stickers. So, parents next week's shop could make a big difference to our school's tally.
# YEAR 11-UNIT 1 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (18th, 19th & 20th) June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>A-BRB02</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>11A</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Reading Time: 9:20 – 9:30 am.</td>
<td>B-BRB01</td>
<td>11:55 – 12:55 am.</td>
<td>11B</td>
<td>Studio Art</td>
<td>BRB06</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Time: 9:30 – 10:55 am.</td>
<td>C-BRB06</td>
<td></td>
<td>11C</td>
<td>Food Tech</td>
<td>BRB06</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lit-BRB07</td>
<td></td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>BRB02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>TRC06</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td>Visual Communication</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Outdoor Education A</td>
<td>PRT01</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td>Media</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoor Education B</td>
<td>PRT02</td>
<td>Study (Methods)</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>BRB02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History</td>
<td>BRB07</td>
<td>Study (General)</td>
<td>BRB06</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>BRB02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>BRB06</td>
<td></td>
<td>BRB02</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>BRB14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Catch Up Exams (Two Lit students)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Those Maths students who are leaving</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on the O.Ed camp)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Health and Human Development Design &amp; Tech</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td>General Maths LC</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td>NORMAL CLASSES</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Design &amp; Tech</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td>General Maths NW</td>
<td>BRB02</td>
<td>Unit 5 Outdoor Ed Camp</td>
<td>BRB01</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study</td>
<td>BRB02</td>
<td>Maths Methods JS</td>
<td>BRB02</td>
<td></td>
<td>BRB01</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BRB02</td>
<td>Maths Methods DL</td>
<td>BRB06</td>
<td></td>
<td>BRB06</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Normal Class Room</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB**
- School uniform is to be worn to the school for the exams.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Silence must be maintained at all times.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students may bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.
## YEAR 10 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (18th, 19th & 20th) June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th</td>
<td><strong>ENGLISH</strong></td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td><strong>STUDY</strong></td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Writing Time: 9:30 – 11:30 am.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th</td>
<td><strong>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT 1</strong></td>
<td>TRC06, BRB07</td>
<td><strong>ART PHOTOGRAPHY B</strong></td>
<td>TRC06, BRB14</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HISTORY 1</strong></td>
<td>PRT01, PRT02</td>
<td><strong>AGRICULTURE</strong></td>
<td>PRT01, PRT01</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR EDUCATION A 1</strong></td>
<td>BRB01</td>
<td><strong>ART</strong></td>
<td>PRT01</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR EDUCATION B 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DRAMA</strong></td>
<td>PRT01</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PSYCHOLOGY 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DANCE</strong></td>
<td>PRT01</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>FOOD TECHNOLOGY B</strong></td>
<td>PRT01</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BRB02</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th</td>
<td><strong>ART PHOTOGRAPHY A</strong></td>
<td>TRC06, TRC06</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td><strong>NORMAL CLASSES</strong></td>
<td>Normal Class Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>GRAPHIC DESIGN</strong></td>
<td>TRC06, RMB02</td>
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<td>(Community visiting 10B)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FOOD TECHNOLOGY A</strong></td>
<td>UFC05</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>WOODWORK</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB:**
- School uniform is to be worn to the school for the exams.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Silence must be maintained at all times.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students may bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.
### YEAR 9 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (18th & 19th June) 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th June</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>HEALTH &amp; PE</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th June</td>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>Homeroom</td>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Normal Class Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB:**
- School uniform is to be worn to school for the exams.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Silence is to be maintained at all times.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students must bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.
### YEAR 7 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (JUNE) 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 1</th>
<th>SESSION 2</th>
<th>SESSION 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>ROOM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th June</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 19th June</td>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### YEAR 8 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 1 (JUNE) 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION 1</th>
<th>SESSION 2</th>
<th>SESSION 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>ROOM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th June</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 19th June</td>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>O’Keeffe Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB:**
- All Junior Exams will be conducted at the O’Keeffe campus.
- Classes will run as normal in the afternoon.
- School uniform is to be worn.
- Students will need to bring loose leaf paper to exams.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students are to bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.
You are cordially invited

To the

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE

7th Annual Mercy Dinner

Friday 27th July, 2012

At the

NOORAT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Guest Speaker

Ms. Sarah Baker

(Past Mercy Student)

Music

Mr. Luke Bourchier

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

Cost $50.00 per head

Drinks available at bar prices.
Please return this booking form and payment to the College Office by no later than

Wednesday 18th July, 2012

7th Annual Mercy Dinner

NAME: __________________________________________

I wish to purchase:

☐ Tickets @ $50.00 per head  Total Cost $ _________________________

I wish to purchase:

☐ Table of 10 @ $500.00 per table  Total Cost $ _________________________

PAYMENT METHOD (please tick which is applicable)

☐ CASH

☐ CHEQUE

☐ CREDIT CARD

CARD NUMBER:      ___ ___ ___ ___  -  ___ ___ ___ ___  -  ___ ___ ___ ___  -  ___ ___ ___ ___

EXPIRY DATE:       ___ ___  -  ___ ___

CARD TYPE:  ☐ Visa Card  ☐ Master Card

SIGNATURE: __________________________________________________________

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