

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 Sunday's gospel passage is amongst my favourite parables in the Christian Scriptures. It describes the hope and challenges of the Kingdom of God.

He also said, 'With what can we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

Mark 4: 30-32

Appropriately this week, the College hosted an initial meeting of Catholic secondary schools in Western Victoria who are interested in setting up a regional Seeds of Justice event for students. Seeds of Justice events have been running twice a year since 2002 in Melbourne and provide a small number of students in Victorian Mercy schools with the opportunity to explore the Mercy charism, become better informed about contemporary issues in social justice and network with like-minded peers. It is a forum that indeed nourishes the seed of justice and compassion in our students, so that they can become articulate and passionate advocates for those who are in need. Much like the tiny mustard seed becomes a large and resilient tree!

Supporting the Holistic Education offered at Mercy Regional College

Over the last few days, I have spoken with a number of year levels on what it means to be a student at Mercy Regional College and the expectations that we have regarding students' commitment to the broader educational program offered here. Naturally, when students are asked to reflect on what they need to do

as students, their first suggestions centre on class attendance, the completion of class work in a timely and satisfactory fashion and maintaining an appropriate standard of behavior. However, my concerns were directed at lack of support from some students for College programs that occur in addition to the formal offerings in class.

Amongst the first principles that I always highlight to prospective students, parents and staff who are contemplating a move to Mercy is that we value a holistic education. One where the academic side of school is emphasized but alongside other priorities such as prayer and Religious Education, Pastoral Care, sport and Physical Education, and psychological and emotional wellbeing. Therefore, I have been disappointed and frustrated by increasing numbers of students (predominantly at Years 10 & 11 but at other year levels also) who have chosen not to attend activities, issues days, camps and retreats that have been organized for them. These programs take the place of scheduled classes and the decision to run them is not taken lightly; the College Leadership Team carefully considers each initiative and what it will bring to the broader educational outcomes for the students.

I seek the support of the parents and guardians of all students in this endeavour. We ask that you take the time to read the letters sent home with students detailing the outcomes and goals of each activity or program and reinforce to your sons and daughters where these sit in the scheme of a holistic education. Days set aside for camps, retreats, issues days or the like should not be an opportunity for students to do additional part-time work, study or undertake other appointments.

End of Term

I congratulate all students, staff and members of the College community on successfully reaching the end of a long second term and remind parents that the last day of term is this Friday 29th June. School will conclude at 2.10 pm. Third term begins on Monday 16th July.

Staffing Changes

As has been mentioned previously, the College is experiencing a baby boom amongst its female staff with Mrs Berni Sinnott, Mrs Kellie Wilson, Mrs Melanie Bouchier and Mrs Sarah Gellie already on or about to take maternity leave. I have pleasure in welcoming the following teachers to the Mercy Regional College community:

Mrs Melissa Wood	Teaching Year 10 and VCAL Mathematics and Year 10 Science
Mrs Melissa Brisbane	Teaching Year 7 SOSE, English, Religious Education and Homeroom
Mrs Chamon Vogels	Teaching Year 8 English and VCAL Literacy
Mrs Tania Bruckner	Teaching Food Technology, SOSE and English

Social Justice Scarves

Congratulations to the students who have been meeting regularly throughout first semester as part of the College social justice group. One of their key projects for the year has come to fruition with the arrival of 100 scarves from Peru. These scarves are made by women in small Peruvian villages in businesses sponsored by Australian Sisters of Mercy, with the money earned by the women providing an important way of raising their living standards and supporting their children in further education. The scarves are available for sale for \$18 and may be worn as part of the College's winter uniform.

Mercy Dinner

In recent newsletters and through the website and SIMON, the College's annual Mercy Dinner has been advertised. It will be held on Friday 27th July at the Noorat Community Centre. 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 the College community to put together a table for the night and join us for a night of good food, great talk and engaging music.

Student Activities

Over the last two weeks, there has been a number of activities for year levels, these include:

- The Year 12 Energizer Day held last Friday at Port Campbell. According to all, it was a very good day and one that extended into the evening as many students and parents

gathered at the Noorat Community Centre for the Footy Colours night. Mr Castles will report on both activities in our next newsletter.

- Year 10 students spent last Friday contemplating their imminent progression into the world of driving with a day dedicated to the important issue of road safety.
- Congratulations to all students who are undertaking or have just completed end of semester assessments and examinations. They constitute a fundamental part of the learning and teaching program for all year levels and serve 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. All teachers are busy with the corrections associated with these and the preparation of end of semester reports.
- Well done to the large group of Mercy students whose performances in the HSSSD Crosscountry earned them a spot in the Barwon South-West Crosscountry in Colac on Thursday. The weather on the day certainly showed why crosscountry is a winter sport.
- At the same time as the crosscountry, the Unit 3 Outdoor Education students were completing their winter camp in the Grampians.
- Next Monday, the next stage of the College's review of Emergency Management occurs with a trial evacuation to be held at the O'Keeffe Campus.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

Deputy Principal Teaching & Learning

Mr. Chris Grant

Exams have now concluded for all students, for Semester 1. Results will be published in either the Parent Access Module (PAM), your child's End of Semester Report, or both. End of Semester Reports will be posted out by Friday 29th June, which you should begin receiving from Monday 2nd July.

Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Mr. Kerin Glennen

Tips For Students:

We have just finished our first round of exams for the year. For some students these exams were their first they sat at Mercy and for others it was their 2nd last set of exams. However no matter which end of the spectrum students are in, preparation and study is basically the same, only the content is different.

All students need support with not only completing homework but also being prepared for study. Each student has a different routine be it arriving at home and getting homework completed so that other family activities can be enjoyed. However some students need a break from school before returning to your homework / study. Students will soon work out which of these and or is there another way they can complete what is expected of them. Students should set up a routine that works for them, however leaving all homework to the last minute is **NOT** a good routine to get into, this is when pressure builds up and you then become stressed.

Have a place for your homework to be done, you don't have to be in your room but it may cut down on distractions. However if in your bedroom then you need to make certain that you do not use your iPad/Laptop and or stand-alone computer unless it is absolutely necessary. The working area does need to be quiet and conducive to you working as best as you can. Do not waste time looking for a pair of scissors or that history book or pens etc. Check that you have what you need before you start....this saves time looking and disrupting your homework / study. Plan your work, write your homework/study in your diary or iPad, whatever is the best for you but make certain you take it home with you. Set your goals so that you are not caught trying to catch up, you are given the task and you know it is due in two weeks then by doing a little each night you will be finished on time.

The same can be said for preparing for an exam/test trying to study all of it on the night prior to the exam is a waste of time. Spread your study out and then you also have time for revision as well. Starting early is a good habit to get into. Leave it too late then you are not achieving as much as you could, give yourself the chance to be the best you can be.

Congratulations:

Thankyou to the Year 9 students, with the support of their parents have already secured Work Experience for 2013. Year 9 Mercy students will be seen in Melbourne, Ballarat, Warrnambool, Terang, Camperdown, Cobden and Geelong etc. There are some students who need to work at securing a position in Term 3. Next term the students in Year 9 will apply for their tax file numbers.

Careers:

A great number of tertiary institutions are now having their Open Days. Check out the careers site on our home page. You can never be too early to check out different Uni's or TAFE. All Year 10, 11 and 12 students have been emailed the list of upcoming events that they maybe interested in.

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Jo Saunders

Year 8 Social Justice Retreat Day

Thursday 7th June the Year 8 students enjoyed a wonderful Retreat Day at the Noorat Community Centre. The theme of the day was Social Justice and was led by the Year 8 RE Faculty; Mr. Tony Wynd, Mrs. Melanie Bouchier and Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders. Fr. Matthew Thomas helped to facilitate the day creating activities and circumstances that would challenge the students on a number of levels. Firstly, the students were divided into the "haves" and "have nots"; representing those who are below the poverty line in many countries around the world and those fortunate enough to have choices in life.



The 'haves' were fortunate enough to get play equipment during the breaks and chairs to sit on during the sessions. They were also fortunate enough to share in a BBQ lunch which included more than one helping! The 'have nots' were certainly less fortunate having no sports equipment at their disposal, no chairs, no special treats and a simple cup of boiled rice for lunch.

We were very fortunate to have our lunch prepared by representatives from two local Parish groups including the Terang St Vincent De Paul conference and the Camperdown CWL ladies. They cooked and served lunch to the staff and students and Mercy College is very proud of this connection with the community and grateful for their time and efforts on the day. We would also like to thank Mrs. Annette Price for her wonderful cup-cakes at morning tea time!

The sessions throughout the day varied greatly; beginning with Fr. Matthew sharing his experiences in the highlands of Papua New Guinea; followed by a focus on the millennium goals and in particular goal number four concerning child mortality rates. The students learned of the risks and fortunes connected with turning five in a third world country and celebrated this fact with a large number '5' cake consisting of over 90 iced cupcakes.



Mr. Tony Wynd and Mrs. Melanie Bouchier also engaged and challenged the students with an insightful session highlighting the in-justice of child labour and how this affects millions of children around the world.

The day ended with a guided reflection, contemporary music and some group activities; all to help reflect upon valuable lessons learned about Social Justice and our need to be more involved and be a voice for change.

St. Vinnies Volunteers visit O'Keefe

On Thursday 20th June, our Year 7 students were treated to a special visit from 11 St Vinnies Volunteers from around the South West Region. These volunteers were invited to speak to the Year 7 students regarding their choice to give time to the valuable community support network that Vinnies provides and the many facets of their involvement in such a worthy cause. The students gathered into small groups and had interesting conversations with the Vinnies volunteers who included members of the Terang, Camperdown, Mortlake, Cobden and Colac conferences. Regional President, Jim O'Shae also joined in the activities which broadened the students' knowledge of the St Vincent De Paul society and its members.

Some of the students were surprised to hear of the different ways in which Vinnies volunteers help those who are needy including financial advice, bereavement support, counselling, hospital visits, food vouchers, transportation and of course, the all-important – conversation, greeting and meeting everyone equally no matter what their personal circumstances. Students asked questions about how long the visitors had been conference members and what they believed to have gained personally from being part of the organisation.

The Year 7 students were also interested to hear about the challenges faced by Vinnies volunteers and the amount of hours per week they generally commit to helping out. Many of the Vinnies volunteers were related to, or acquainted with, the students at the O'Keefe Campus, this encouraged familiarity and bonds between visitors and students alike.

Students in Year 7 have been working through the 'Awakenings' Religious Education Unit entitled "**How do we make a difference?**" Within this unit, they focus on the 'Reign of God' in our world and have been introduced to the works of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. They have compared these works of mercy with the Gospel stories of mercy, inclusiveness and kindness and identifying these Gospel values within their own community and in the enthusiastic volunteers from St Vincent De Paul Society.

Some students had the opportunity to follow this special visit with a written response on their iPads that have been emailed directly as feedback to the St Vincent De Paul Regional Council. Year 7 students, Homeroom teachers and RE faculty would like to thank the Vinnies Volunteers for their time and for sharing the way they continue to live out the Reign of God in our local and wider community. As a truly Regional College, Mercy is glad to have the privilege of engaging with Vinnies members from across our Diocese.

Participating volunteers were:

Maureen Larkins – Camperdown
 Kate Daffy – Cobden
 Br Bernie Adams – Colac
 Ian Murray – Mortlake
 Bill Bourke – Terang
 Mick Lee – Terang
 Helen Meade – Terang
 Elaine Hammond – Terang
 Cath Glennen – Terang
 Mick Glennen – Terang
 Jim O'Shae – Regional President



Mick Glennen and Jim O'Shae (Regional President) of St Vinnies with students.



Cath Glennen and Ian Murray with students.



Mick Glennen has been a volunteer for St Vinnies for almost 70 years.



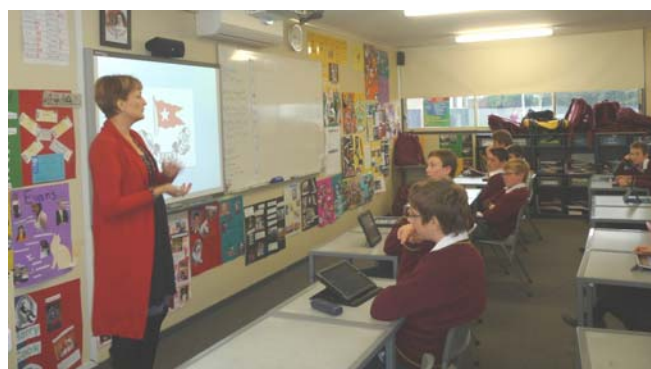
Students in groups listening to the volunteers.

Special Guest Author - Sue Lawson @ O'Keeffe

On 8th June, Colac author Sue Lawson visited Mercy Regional College. Sue has recently completed a novel, "Forget me not" about a fictitious family aboard the Titanic. As we now recognise the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the unsinkable ship, it was the Titanic exhibition in Melbourne which inspired the author to write her latest novel. Sue Lawson's visit encompassed classes at both the McAuley and O'Keeffe Campuses and she proved to be highly engaging for all students.

Meeting with the Year 7 classes, her focus was on the historical element of her writing and how she recreated the style and class distinction which was so much part of the Titanic. She went on to explain to the students how she drew from primary and secondary historical evidence to be as accurate as possible in helping the reader to envision this epic but brief journey. Students used their iPads to take notes and record interesting facts that Sue shared with them and a number of students commented on having made over fifty dot points of interest from her presentation.

After presenting to the classes, Sue met with students from Year 7 & 8 who are participating in the reading challenge over lunch in the O'Keeffe Campus, Frank Pekin Library. This was a special treat, encouraging the students to continue reading and be inspired by the books they enjoy.



Sue Lawson @ McAuley

The reading room of the John Tindley Library provided the perfect setting for author Sue Lawson to workshop with the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge participants. The seven Year 9 girls were fortunate to hear Sue speak about her work as a published author, including her latest book *'Forget me not'* which is based on the story of one family's voyage on the Titanic. Sue was happy to share some of her writing tips and experiences related to literature, including her journals. Sue praised the girls for their enthusiasm and endeavour.

Mrs. Maureen O'Loughlan



Student Leadership Coordinator

Mr. Luke Bouchier

Upcoming Casual Day

Next Wednesday at the McAuley campus and Friday at the O'Keeffe campus, students will be donning their casual attire in support of members of the College community who are currently excelling in their field, but may require some extra financial support to achieve their goals. If students could bring a gold coin donation for the privilege to wear casual clothes, the money will be going to very worthy recipients. Hot food will be available for students to purchase in support of this cause.

Shave For a Cure – Caitlin Wallis

Students at the McAuley Campus gathered in the Multi-Purpose Area on Monday to support Caitlin Wallis and her sister Amanda as they had their heads shaved for cancer. McAuley students had the opportunity to donate to this very worthy cause, and many were present to witness Caitlin's brave effort. The final amount raised is still being counted but the students and staff should be thanked for their generous contributions. Congratulations Caitlin on a great effort and for raising anti-cancer awareness.



The Mademoiselles

Mrs. Janet Backhous

On Thursday 14th June my Year 9 Drama class performed for the Prep, Grade 1 & 2 students at St Pat's Primary School, Camperdown.

'The Mademoiselles' presented a performance based on our work this semester. We have been working on Mime, Slapstick and Comedy, and our performance developed from this.

I would like to congratulate all the students involved and make a special mention of Laura Bourke, Sophie Atkins and Ella Clarke, who together looked after our sound and video requirements.

We had a ball working together in a collaborative manner to devise the show, and the performances on the day were brilliant!!! It was fantastic to watch all of our students shine as performers, and the students who attended loved it. The joy on the St Pat's students' faces was priceless. They were totally

involved in the performances and they joined in enthusiastically when invited to do so.

We would all like to thank St Pat's for having us. We loved performing for the students and staff.

Congratulations 'Mademoiselles'!!! You Rock!!!

In the photo from back row left to right - Hannah Moloney, Grace Lucas, Kaitlyn Martin, Emma Croft, Hannah Fleuchar, Jackie McKay, Laura Kemp, Susan O'Brien, Haylee Davis, Jasmine Hickey, Olivia Hickey, Ebony Reynolds, Victoria Conroy, Annie Moloney.



VCE Dance excursion

Mrs. Freya Egberts

How proud can a teacher be? Well, this week, I can say very proud!

On Friday 15th June, the eight Year 10 students currently completing VCE Dance Unit 1, headed down to Geelong to showcase their efforts this semester as part of the Geelong Dance Network's VCE/VCAL Dance Evening at Sacred Heart College.

Before this evening performance students had the opportunity to participate in a falling and floor work workshop by Frankie Snowdon, a Chunky Move dancer. Daunted at first, the hard, but beautiful, Geelong College Dance Studio floor soon became their friend and a new understanding of how to incorporate the floor into their own choreographies became apparent.

Following the workshop, we headed across the road to Sacred Heart College. After a quick tour of the school led by an excited ex-student, me, we were welcomed by many of the staff and made to feel quite important. Our performance was in the Costa Centre of Performing Arts so hair and makeup was next on the

agenda. We completed our final rehearsal with only minor spatial adjustments and then headed off for a well-earned pizza and salad dinner. Re-energized, it was back to SHC to don the costumes and get ready for the VCE and VET Dance Learnt Work Evening.

The group dance titled "Persecution, Compassion, Hope" included Year 10 students, Amy Hallyburton, Bonnie Hinkley, Catherine Kenna, Madeleine Kenna, Briony Kent, Bethany O'Sullivan, Dana Rhode and Leah Veenstra. The dance evolved from a MRC Professional Development day lead by Sister Lizzie Finnerty RSM. I was so moved by her experiences and her description of the harsh reality of those fleeing persecution that I decided to portray in movement the plight of refugees seeking asylum.

The dance was presented in three stages:

- In the beginning, horrific situations in their countries of birth cause people to flee from persecution.
- The development sees the asylum seekers risking their lives on leaky vessels in search of a better life only to find themselves imprisoned in detention centres.
- The resolution shows the asylum seekers being able to assimilate into society while others are so mentally scarred that they are unable to move ahead in their new country.

On the night, we were privileged to have Sr. Lizzie in attendance and the students performed with compassion and maturity. Their fine performances reflected the struggles these students had in understanding the hardships and violence experienced by the asylum seekers and, subsequently, in physically portraying these hardships in movement.

Here, I ask again, how proud can a teacher be? My answer hasn't changed. Very proud! Congratulations dancers on your wonderful performance of such a topical and confronting topic.



From the Head of Sport

Miss Stacey Hillman

Mercy Regional College has a proud sporting history and thrives on the success of our students' abilities and participation in a range of extra-curricular activities. In recent times, it has been disappointing to see students volunteering and being selected for sports then simply not turning up on the day of competition for a number of reasons, and not contacting staff to let them know this.

As our College enrolment numbers continue to grow, there are many students who are willing and able to participate in these events who unfortunately don't get the opportunity to do so. All Physical Education teachers are urging students who are selected and cannot attend to get in contact with them ASAP so that a replacement can be found. As parents, your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated as we strive to continue to get the best out of our students.

Table Tennis

Mr. Darren Cheeseman

On Friday 8th June Mercy Regional College sent six boys table tennis teams to Terang Stadium to participate in the HSSSD competition.

The two Year 7 teams included Harry O'Sullivan, Tom Place, Hamish Huffadine, Jim O'Sullivan, Tom Nelson, Angus McConachy, Mitchell Wyss and Seth Wright-Corneby.

The two Year 8 teams included the following students Daniel Kenna, Paddy Bourke, Jordan Wareham, Taylor Neal, Jack Wilson, Aarie Jansen Van Beek, Lachie Bignell and Rhys Casson.

Finally the intermediate teams were represented by Paddy Lee, Sam Henderson, Jack Williams, Mitchell Banks, Darcy Collins, Tom Marshman, Lachie McDonald and Tyler Mungan.

In the lead up to the event some students were able to have some lunchtime practice sessions in the stadium, which showed great commitment.

The students were given responsibility of the final make-up of the two MRC teams and in each competition we were able to have a successful winning team.

For the next round of competition we will need to select the top 4 players from each section to participate at the higher level. We will conduct try-outs at a later date.

All students did extremely well and showed great sportsmanship. Thanks to Stacey Hillman and Charlie Bradshaw for their organization of the teams.



O'Keeffe Chess Club

Mrs. Leesa Henriksen and Mrs. Mel Bouchier

Most Thursdays at lunchtime you can guarantee that in 7A you will find some very keen and competitive chess players.

There are about 10 students who meet regularly and play, using either the traditional chess sets or chess apps on their iPads. We have a mixture of boys and girls and also beginners to serious players! Dade Allen is proving to be an unbeatable champion.

We are looking forward to competing with some other schools in the near future.



Photo: Dade Allen and Shai Karney

Blood Bank Volunteers

The article below was in this month's Blood Bank news. Well done to Fr. Matthew (along with all the students) for his commitment to travelling to Geelong each week to the Blood Bank.

HOW FAR WOULD YOU TRAVEL?

Pretty much every week throughout the school term, the Geelong Donor Centre sees a group of eight students from Mercy Regional College.

So why is this group so different from the other school groups that we see in Geelong? Because, these students, accompanied by Father Matthew Thomas, travel one and a half hours to get from Camperdown, in the states south west, to get to the Geelong Donor Centre, after school's finished for the day. This commitment is highly commendable and is recognised by all the Geelong staff. The Geelong Donor Centre really appreciates the support from Mercy Regional College!

Stephanie Reynolds
Community Relations Officer



Photo above: Father Matthew Thomas with a student from Mercy Regional College.

Tournament of Minds

Leesa Henriksen and Sophie Carr

We are pleased to announce we have registered to send two teams to the Tournament of Minds this year.



Tournament of Minds is for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant, and public way. The Tournament's aim is to enhance the potential of our students by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to

work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment.

Our teams are comprised of 7 students with a mix of from Year 7 to Year 10, with a gender balance as well. The team members also represent a range of strengths e.g. mathematical skills, language skills, social skills, team work skills, problem solving skills, organisational skills, dramatic flair etc.

Students have a time frame of 6 weeks to prepare for a long term challenge. This will be the first 6 weeks of Term 3. This long term challenge will be presented at a region Tournament of Minds Day in front of a panel of judges in Geelong at Deakin University on Sunday 26th August. Presentation of the solution to this long term challenge will involve students writing their own script for a dramatic production. The day in Geelong will also involve responding to a spontaneous problem (with 5 minutes to work on the solution as a team) and presented to a judging panel.

We are looking forward to receiving our long term challenge in the holidays and making a start on it in early Term 3!

VCAL 'Healthy Eating' Week

Brendan Richardson

Year 12 VCAL students, with the assistance of Year 11 VCAL students will be running the canteen next week, Monday 25th of June through to Friday 29th June. The purpose is for students to provide other students with healthier canteen options.

Food Provided:

Freshly baked sweet muffins \$2
Homemade pumpkin and chicken and sweet corn soup with bread \$2
Mini pizzas on wholemeal muffin bases (two for \$2)
Roast Beef with Gravy Rolls \$4
Fried Rice \$4
Pasta with Bolognese sauce \$4
Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap \$4
Fresh Fruit Salad \$2

There will be water and juice available to purchase at normal canteen price. All students should try to order their lunch at morning briefing and place in tubs as per usual.

Please Note:

St. Pat's student's will still have the same Canteen Menu, however, Mercy students will only be able to purchase what is on offer through the VCAL menu.

We would really appreciate everyone's support during this week!

Coming Dates

TERM 2

25 June

* PTFA Meeting 7:30pm – O’Keeffe Campus

28 June

* Year 11 Energiser Day - Colac

29 June

* Year 7 – 2013 Enrolment applications close today

* Term 2 concludes @ 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

27 July

* Mercy Dinner 7.00pm @ Noorat Community Centre

31 July

* Year 7 – 2013 Enrolment Interviews

1 August

* Year 7 – 2013 Enrolment Interviews

REMINDER / NOTICE

Enrolment Applications

Applications for enrolment to Mercy
Regional College for
Year 7 – 2013 close on
Friday 29th June.

Colac Music Teachers Association Eisteddfod

Some of our Mercy students are participating in the CMTA Eisteddfod. It is a great opportunity for students to perform for one another and get feedback from the adjudicators. Information for the day is listed as follows. We hope some of you may be able to come along and enjoy the music. Janet Backhouse on behalf of Kelly Kerr - President of the CMTA.

CMTA Eisteddfod

Saturday 23rd June 2012, 9:00am - 5:30pm
COPACC Black Box Theatre
Gold Coin donation for entry and program. Come along and support your peers, enjoy a musical day and maybe even be inspired to take up an instrument!
Visit www.cmta.com.au for more information
or contact kelly@swit.com.au



Would you like to be part of a playgroup that aims to support parents to promote their children's early learning at home?

Parents or carers of children aged from 12 - 36 months may be eligible to take part in this program conducted by the Parenting Research Centre and funded by the Victorian Government.

Participation is free of charge and by taking part you can benefit from:

- meeting other parents and carers
- social and activity experiences for your child
- learn strategies to help your child's early learning
- enjoy the support of your group facilitator

To find out if you are eligible and for more information contact your local coordinator on:

Kay Widdicombe
Early Home Learning Study
Coordinator
Glastonbury Community Services

P: (03) 5231 4740
F: (03) 5231 6524
kwiddicombe@glastonbury.org.au
Glastonbury Community Services

P: 1800 681 793 E : ehls@parentingrc.org.au www.earlyhomelearningstudy.net.au



Along the track

Year of Grace: Be Yourself

The London Olympics will showcase many extraordinarily gifted men and women performing equally extraordinary feats, creating records and breaking old records. Immediately afterwards, the gifted men and women who compete in the Disabled Olympics will perform equally extraordinary feats and make and break similar records. Not only is it a time to marvel at such feats of skill and endurance, it is a time to reflect not just on how gifted they may be, but also these competitions remind us about the diversity of gifts among us and our own giftedness. It is a reminder too of the adage: 'be yourself, everyone else is taken'.

Much of our life is spent in trying to discover who we are and what our purpose in life may be, what we are meant to be doing. Finding answers to those questions becomes easier as we grow older but they are very difficult questions when we are young. We need to establish our own identity by finding for ourselves a sense of self-worth, some quiet from the restlessness that often stirs within us. We cannot be someone else!

In many ways, 'be yourself, everyone else is taken' can be summed up in the simple phrase of "I am". Each one of us is unique, each one of us is individually gifted, each one of us is individually called to be what God wants us to be, to use the gifts which God has uniquely endowed each one of us. In the words of Psalmist:

When I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth,
your eyes could see my unformed substance.
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
'Nothing about me, from beginning to end
was hidden from your eyes.
For so many marvels I thank you.
You have made me to be so wonderful.
'I praise you for you fill me with awe. Psalm 139

Shortly after his conversion, St. Augustine wrote: "Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things that you created. You were with me, but I was not with you."

In my unloveliness – too often we regard ourselves as somewhat deficient, inadequate perhaps, not all that loveable. We envy those who appear to be gifted, talented, able to handle any situation, those who appear to be so fortunate, so blessed. Yet God is within each of us. That's what grace means – the free gift of God's presence. We don't earn it, we don't deserve it but we certainly need it. Deep down in every person God is at work, not simply keeping each of us in existence, but lovingly at work helping each of us reach the fullness of being which is what God wants for each of us. And that is different for each – we are all unique, all gifted in our own way.

God's grace is diverse and different; it is not identical for each person. God's grace works through each person's unique gifts and talents; they are as unique and varied as each one of us. They are not equal or the same for each person, though they may appear to be somewhat similar.

Do you remember the parable of the talents (Mtt 25: 14-30; Luke 19:12-28)? The master of the household entrusts his possessions to his servants. To the first he entrusted five talents, to the second two talents, and to the third one talent. The first two servants quickly set to work with their master's money. The third servant did not invest his master's money at all; he dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. When the master returned, the first two eagerly met their master, apparently delighted in the opportunity to multiply their master's money. Both were commended as "good and faithful servants"; both were rewarded with increased responsibilities in their master's service; both were invited to share in their master's joy.

The third servant came to his master with only the talent his master had originally entrusted to him. He did not increase his master's money at all. He told his master that he simply hid the money, and now he returned it, without any gain. The master rebuked this slave and took his talent from him.

Why was the master so angry – not just because he did not use the talents which God has gifted him but because it was in the use of our talents that we find happiness and fulfillment. It is in the use of these gifts that each of us finds meaning and purpose, in using these gifts in the service of God, in the building up of the kingdom of God Where one's gifts and talents are not being used in service to God and others, they become self-serving, "It's all about me!"

St. Paul exhorting his young protégé Timothy (2 Tim. 1:6-7 NIV), "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God... For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

God has graced each person. It may appear sometimes that some are endowed with more talent than others, but God has left none of us without talent. Looking back over the years, I've become aware that new gifts or talents begin to emerge, while others may begin to wane or subside. Likewise, as I venture into my later years, I've discovered "senior" talents, or abilities, that I had no idea existed as a possibility when I was in my 20s and 30s. 'My grace is sufficient for you (2 Cor 12:9)! At any age God's grace is available, at work within.

We do not have to make God present, but to make ourselves present to God, to make ourselves sensitive to the richness of God's grace that is already present and active in our lives.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

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Email: jquillinan@dcsl.net.au

Weekly Career News

TERM TWO

19 June 2012

VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

New Science pre requisites at the University of Melbourne: Starting from 2014, the pre requisites for the Bachelor of Science are as follows:

- Units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 25 in any English or at least 30 in ESL and either:
- A study score of at least 25 in Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics, and in one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics; or
- A study score of at least 25 in both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics.



Sport at La Trobe University: La Trobe offers sports degrees in Physiotherapy, Sports Journalism, Physical Education and Sports Management. The university has its sights set on being one of Australia's leading sport universities. To find out about their newly expanded programs in sports education and research go to <http://latrobeuniversitybulletin.com/2012/05/07/sport-la-trobe-a-new-goal/>

Have you considered International Logistics? The maritime and logistics industries are booming. Thanks to international trade and online shopping, there are more goods and services being transported around the globe than ever before.

Studying International Logistics at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania will open the door to a career that offers graduates an excellent earning potential and worldwide opportunities. <http://www.amc.edu.au/future-students>



VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

Interested in becoming a Pilot, Firefighter, Paramedic etc? The Pilot Aptitude Training Systems (PATS) website explains the processes for Year 12 completers to apply for these different courses and occupations. It also explains the process for applying to the Australian Defence Force Academy. To view the site, go to www.pilotaptitude.com/

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE
FORCE ACADEMY



Australian School of Business (ASB) 'Pulse' on Youtube: The ASB at the University of New South Wales has recently launched an online weekly video catch-up that provides updates on what is going on in the faculty and gives students insights into a key business issue each week. Search ASB Pulse on YouTube



University of Melbourne Extension Program: If you are considering participating in the University of Melbourne's Extension Program next year, you may be eligible for an ATAR increment of between 3.0 and 5.0. For more information, go to www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/umep



Passionate about becoming a Pilot? The Associate Degree in Aviation (Professional Pilots) at RMIT is designed to provide students with value-enhancing capabilities for the aviation industry. In addition to obtaining an associate degree, students will develop the necessary skills to obtain a full Commercial Pilot's License. For more information, go to www.rmit.edu.au/programs/ad023

VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

New Directions for Creative Arts and Media at La Trobe: Creative arts and Media are changing rapidly and from 2013 La Trobe will strive to be leaders in these fields with a revised Bachelor of Creative Arts degree and a revised Bachelor of Media. To read about the changes, go to www.latrobe.edu.au/humanities/about/events/new-directions



UNSW Medicine Information Evening: If you missed out on the Medicine Information Evening at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) last month, you can view the video of the evening here- <http://tv.unsw.edu.au/video/unsw-year-12-medicine-information-evening-2012>

COMPETITION

Creative students are encouraged to enter the Collision competition for National Science Week 2012. Collision is an online competition designed for students to create their own representation of particle physics. To enter, students must submit an artwork in comic or multimedia format on the Collision website.

You can browse other entries on the site to get a feel for what's hot in the world of particle physics. Submissions are now open and close on 13 July 2012. Go to www.collision.org.au to learn more



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) Winter Exhibition: If you are interested in studying at the SCA, you should consider attending their Graduate Arts Exhibition between Thursday 28 June – Wednesday 4 July. For more information, go to www.sydney.edu.au/sca



The University of Sydney

UPCOMING EVENTS

School of Medicine Taster Day: The University of Tasmania are running an interactive Taster Day for Year 9 and 10 students on Friday 3 August. The degrees to be showcased include Biotechnology and Medical Research, Medicine and Surgery and Paramedic Practice. Register via the following link www.utas.edu.au/medicine/tasterday



Are you interested in Horticulture and Environmental Management? The University of Melbourne's School of Land and Environment and Friends of Burnley Gardens are hosting the Burnley Open Day on Sunday 15 July. You'll be able to

- Learn about their courses,
- Listen to lectures by horticultural experts, and Attend specialist workshops on leading sustainable gardening practice, including pruning, watering and fertilizers, and setting up a veggie plot.

To register, go to www.land-environment.unimelb.edu.au



Love the environment?
Explore breadth options with the
Melbourne School of Land and Environment

JUNE EVENTS

- **24: Open Day, Victoria University, Footscray Campus,** www.vu.edu.au/events/open-day-2012
- **26: MyDay Events, Charles Sturt University, Creative Industries- Wagga Campus,** www.csu.edu.au/myday
- **26, 28: Focus on Melbourne, University of Melbourne, Science (28), and Victorian College of the Arts,** <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/w6c>



JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY 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
- **Zoo Keeper for a Day**, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo, various dates, www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Camps-Holidays
- **2: Australian Youth Aerospace Forum**, Melbourne Activity Day, University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus, www.ayaa.com.au/ayaf-melb
- **2 – 3: Folio Preparation Program**, La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus, j.uren@latrobe.edu.au
- **3, 5: Experience La Trobe**, Bundoora (3), Bendigo Campus (5), <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience>
- **3 – 5: Monash Art, Design & Architecture Workshops**, Caulfield Campus, www.artdes.monash.edu/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: School Holiday Workshops**, JMC Academy, Melbourne Campus, www.jmcacademy.edu.au/
- **5 & 13: Experience La Trobe University**, Bendigo Campus (5) and Bundoora Campus (13), www.latrobe.edu.au/experience
- **7 – 13: Computer Games Boot Camp**, Monash University, Clayton Campus, www.it.monash.edu/cqbc

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY EVENTS

- **9 – 13: Victorian College of the Arts**, Winter School, South Melbourne Campus, <http://vca.unimelb.edu.au/performingarts/shortcourses>
- **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
- **11: Science in the City – Lab Tour**, RMIT, City Campus, www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover
- **13: Discover Victoria University**, St Albans Campus, www.vu.edu.au/events/discovery-day-at-st-albans
- **13: Access all Areas**, University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus, http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/access-all-areas-year10,11,12
- **15: Burnley Open Day**, www.land-environment.unimelb.edu.au

JULY EVENTS

- **16, 17, 18, 26: La Trobe Year 10 and Parents' Information Evenings**, Shepparton (16), Bendigo (17), Albury Wodonga (18), and Bundoora (26), www.latrobe.edu.au/school/events
- **18, 19, 25: Meet Melbourne Uni**, Hamilton (18), Warrnambool (19), and Glen Waverley (25), www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne
- **23: Marine Science Careers Day**, Melbourne Aquarium, www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/education/students/marine-science-careers-day-2012
- **25, 26: Parent Information Evenings**, Deakin University, Geelong Waterfront (25), Melbourne Burwood (26), www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/parents/parents-info.php

ATTENTION PARENTS



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

SIX MORE WEEKS TO EARN VALUABLE STICKERS FOR OUR SCHOOL. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR STICKER CARDS TO THE COLLEGE BEFORE THE DATE ABOVE.

THANKS TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO ARE SUPPORTING THIS.

URGENT REMINDER TO PARENTS

PLEASE RETURN CHOCOLATE MONEY

COST FOR FULL BOX \$50.00



**MUST BE RETURNED TO THE COLLEGE BY NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY, 28th JUNE**



**The Jean Wood Memorial
Instrumental Music Scholarship Committee**

present the Inaugural

“Jean Wood Jam in June”

*An instrumental Music Concert for instrumental music students
residing or attending school in the districts of Terang, Camperdown,
Timboon and Mortlake.*

**Friday, 22 June @ 7pm
at**

Noorat Primary School Hall

Entry: \$2 / person includes
Supper with a Jam Theme!

Enrol NOW to perform .

Enrolment Forms are available from:

- School Newsletters
- Local Libraries
- Phone Jo on 0458 926 011 / 5592 6267
- Email: ifpugh@bigpond.net.au



UP TO

\$3000
IN

PRIZES

WARRNAMBOOL GOLF CLUB INC. PRESENTS

FRESH LOCAL **Sungold** MILK



36 HOLE JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP



&

Corangamite & District Junior Championships

Golf Victoria – Geoff Ogilvy Trophy Event & Girls Future Series

Played on one of Victoria's Premier Courses

MONDAY 9th & TUESDAY 10th JULY 2012

Corangamite & District Golf Association

BOYS: 36 Hole Scratch / Handicap Events – Ages: Open, Under 21, Under 18, Under 15.

Entry Fee \$30 (Includes BBQ lunch), Daily 18 Hole Events.

GIRLS: 36 Hole Scratch / Handicap Events – Ages: Open, Under 18

Entry Fee \$30 (Includes BBQ lunch), Daily 18 Hole Events.

STUDENT GIRLS AND BOYS: 18 Hole (over 2 days) Handicap / No Handicap Events-

Entry Fee \$20 (Includes BBQ lunch), Daily 9 Hole Events.

AGE LIMIT: All under age events are based on age as at 1st July 2012.

All events subject to sufficient entries under the auspices of Golf Victoria and Corangamite District Golf Association.

Luncheon and afternoon tea available at the clubhouse.





#

WEP Student Exchange - Special Holiday Info Sessions

There is no better time to plan your student exchange program than during your school holidays! Choose from over 20 countries around the world and experience life as an overseas teenager for a summer, semester or even a year.

To help you and your family make this important decision, WEP has scheduled **12 additional information sessions** during the school holidays.

For dates, times and directions, visit **wep.org.au** or call **1300 884 733**.

From Our Students

"My host family was waiting for me at the airport with big smiles and open arms. All that worrying for nothing! They are the sweetest people and I feel very lucky to be staying with them"

~ Chelsea, semester program to Italy

World Education Program (WEP) Australia

WEP is an independent, not-for-profit Australian student exchange organisation registered with the education departments in QLD, NSW and VIC.

Students accepted by WEP Australia generally act as producers, rather than consumers, of their own education. Our programs ready students for a lifetime of successful learning in a diverse and rapidly changing society.

1300 884 733

We observe the Codes of Ethics and deliver the professional service standards demanded by membership of these organisations.



WEP Australia is proud to be an inaugural member of the Council of Australian Student Exchange Organisations Executive.

Adult/adolescent diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis

Free vaccine is available for Year 10 secondary school students (National Immunisation Program) and parents of newborn babies (Victorian time limited program).

Diphtheria

Diphtheria is caused by bacteria which are found in the mouth, throat and nose. Diphtheria causes a membrane to grow around the inside of the throat. This can make it difficult to swallow, breathe and can even lead to suffocation.

The bacteria produce a poison which can spread around the body and cause serious complications such as paralysis and heart failure. Around 10 percent of people who contract diphtheria die from it.

Diphtheria can be caught through coughs and sneezes from an infected person.

Tetanus

Tetanus is caused by bacteria which are present in soils, dust and manure. The bacteria can enter the body through a wound which may be as small as a pin prick. Tetanus cannot be passed from person to person.

Tetanus is often a fatal disease which attacks the nervous system. It causes muscle spasms first felt in the neck and jaw muscles. Tetanus can lead to breathing difficulties, painful convulsions and abnormal heart rhythms.

Because of the effective vaccine, tetanus is now rare in Australia, but it still occurs in adults who have never been immunised against the disease or who have not had their booster vaccines.

Whooping cough

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis is a highly infectious disease causing a severe, persistent cough. In young babies the cough is often followed by breathing problems and vomiting. Whooping cough is spread by coughs and sneezes from an infected person.

Severe complications such as pneumonia, bleeding, convulsions, coma and permanent brain and lung damage can occur.

Babies under six months of age are particularly at risk, as they are not protected against whooping cough until their six-month vaccination schedule is complete. Infected babies often require admission to hospital.

Protection against whooping cough both from the disease and the vaccine decreases over time. Therefore a booster dose of whooping cough vaccine is recommended for adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school (as well as other groups in the community - see below) to reduce the incidence of whooping cough circulating in the community.

Adult/adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine

There are different brands of adult/adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine available.

These vaccines contain a small amount of diphtheria and tetanus toxins which are modified to make them harmless, small parts of purified components of pertussis (whooping cough) and a small amount of aluminium salt.

After the vaccine has been given it generally takes about two weeks to build protection in the body.

Vaccine recommendations

The adult/adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine is recommended on a single occasion for the following groups who have previously completed a course of diphtheria-tetanus vaccine. Once a single booster dose has been given, subsequent booster doses to the same person should not be administered even if he/she qualifies for another of the groups below:

- adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school or age equivalent
- adults before planning pregnancy or for both parents as soon as possible after birth
- adults working with or caring for young children, especially health care workers and child-care workers in contact with infants
- any adult who wants to be protected against whooping cough.

This vaccine is only provided free to adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school (or age equivalent) and parents of newborn babies (time limited program).

While the vaccine is strongly recommended for the other groups outlined above, it is not funded and therefore needs to be purchased privately.

Possible side effects of adult/adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine

This vaccine is safe and well tolerated in adolescents and adults. Most side effects are minor and quickly disappear. The following reactions are not common and if they occur, it will be soon after the immunisation. Reactions include feeling unwell, a low grade fever and soreness, redness and swelling in the area where the injection was given.

Side effects can be reduced by:

- Drinking extra fluids and not over-dressing if the person has a fever
- Applying a cold wet cloth to the sore injection site
- Taking paracetamol to reduce any discomfort.

If reactions are severe or persistent, or if you are worried, contact your doctor or hospital.

Pre-immunisation checklist

Before you or your child is immunised, tell the doctor or nurse if any of the following apply:

- Are unwell on the day of immunisation (temperature over 38.5°C)
- Has had a severe reaction to any vaccine
- Is Pregnant (the person to be vaccinated)



Last updated: 27 March, 2012

For information relating to this page [contact us](#)

Page content authorised by: Communicable Disease - Prevention and Control Unit, Chief Health Officer and Health Protection Branch, Wellbeing, Integrated Care and Ageing Division of the Department of Health, Victoria, Australia.

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INVITATION

You are cordially invited

To the

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE

7th Annual Mercy Dinner

Friday 27th July, 2012

At the

NOORAT COMMUNITY CENTRE

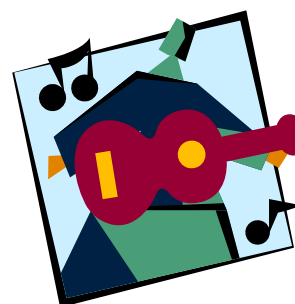
Guest Speaker

Ms. Sarah Baker

(Past Mercy Student)

Music

Mr. Luke Bouchier



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 the 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

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

For further enquiries please contact Mrs. Sue Bohm on 5593 2011

or email sue@mercy.vic.edu.au