

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4-4

Friday, 29th November, 2013

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 2013

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

As we approach December, the Church is in the season of Advent, a time of waiting, of preparation, even of wilderness. The unforgettable call of the prophet Isaiah Chapter 40 challenges all Judeo-Christians to reflect on those times when we have felt alone and abandoned; it is at these times that the joy and light of Christmas offers its great promise. In the 21st century, when the consumerism of November and December can be overwhelming, it is important for us to remember that the Advent Season is a time of quiet contemplation and personal penance. This week's prayer takes us to such a place:

Prepare Ye

In the lonely places

The wilderness

Where we stand forlorn

Windswept and alone

Your voice calls out

Prepare a way for the Lord

In the dark places

The shadows

Where we hide our fears

Embrace our tears

Your voice calls out

Prepare a way for the Lord

Mercy Regional College 40th Anniversary Celebrations

What a wonderful weekend of celebrations we were blessed to enjoy for the 40th anniversary of Mercy Regional College/Catholic Regional College.

Each of three events on the weekend of November 16th and 17th was special in its own way: the small but appreciative group of past and present students and staff who toured the O'Keeffe Campus, Noorat, on Saturday morning; the 100 guests who enjoyed themselves at the 40th anniversary dinner at the Camperdown Football Netball Club on Saturday night; and, the many people who joined us on Sunday for Mass at St Patrick's followed by a BBQ, Mercy Arts Show, school tours and an amazing historical display as well as the Car Raffle draw.

Across the weekend, the sense of pride, achievement and joy was palpable both amongst those who have been a part of the school community for 40 years as well as those of us who have been here for a much shorter period of time. Thank you to everyone – staff, students, parents and families – who contributed to make the weekend a success and particular thanks to Mrs. Rose Henry who did a marvelous job of coordinating the celebrations. Please see the report that was in the Ballarat Diocesan eNews on page 5 of this newsletter.

Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner

Following the 40th Anniversary dinner, it was fantastic to gather at the 5 Star Function Centre a week later to celebrate the Graduation of the College's 2013 Year 12 class. The evening combined a moving Eucharist at St Patrick's Church, the presentation of graduation certificates and awards with a dinner for graduands, their parents and teachers. Congratulations to the class of 2013 and to the teachers supported them on their journeys through primary and secondary school. Thank you to Mr. James Castles, Mrs. Jo Saunders and Sue Bohm for their work coordinating the evening.

End of Year Details

The formal end to classes for students approaches, details are as follows:

- With the completion of Year 12 Transition classes, Year 11 students finished the 2013 school year today.
- A number of Year 11 students, those holding student leadership positions, will spend two days at Apollo Bay next Monday and Tuesday at the annual Student Leadership camp. I wish them well.
- Year 7 – 10 students are currently completing End of Semester exams and classes for them will conclude next Friday 6th December.
- A reminder that next Tuesday 3rd December is our Transition Day for incoming 2014 students and for Year 9 students moving across to the McAuley Campus. **As a result there will be no classes for Year 7 students on Tuesday.**

Teaching staff will have time in the following week to complete reports and to spend time in subject domains reviewing courses and planning for 2014. Teaching staff conclude on Friday 13th December. The College Office closes for the year on Wednesday 18th December.

2014 School Dates

A full list of important 2014 school dates is included in the last page of this newsletter.

St Patrick's Primary School and Mercy End of Year BBQ and Carols

Last year for the first time, St Patrick's Primary School and Mercy Regional College jointly staged an End of Year BBQ and Carols evening on the McAuley Campus Oval. The night is a wonderful opportunity for students, parents and families, especially those with connections to both schools, to come together to celebrate the year's end and to look forward to Christmas.

The celebration will be held on the evening of Tuesday 17th December starting at 6.00 pm. Please bring your own food, drinks and a rug.

2014 Presentation Ball

Last week, I distributed a letter to all prospective Year 11 students and their parents highlighting a change to the date of next year's Presentation Ball. Due to the ongoing uncertainty regarding the future of Glenormiston College, we have been unable to obtain a guarantee that the venue will be open and available to us after the start of March 2014.

As a result, the decision was taken to move the Ball forward to **Friday 28th February**. All other arrangements remain unchanged and dance practices for the students started this week.

Student Achievements

As the year finished up, a number of Mercy Regional College students have been recognized:

- Congratulations to those students who were nominated in the recent Corangamite Shire Youth Achievement Awards and particularly to those who received an award: Verity Watt - Community service (individual); Ricky Nelson - Agriculture and, Grace Lee - Alternative sport (individual).
- Congratulations also to our Year 12 students, Toby McKenzie and Lilli Van Donk who have been nominated for awards in the upcoming Victorian Theatre Guild Awards in Ballarat. A big couple of weeks for Toby who was one of twelve school leavers selected state-wide to attend the nine day all-expenses-paid Regional Arts Victoria 2014 Creative Leadership Program held in the Melbourne Arts precinct in February.

Mercy Mass of Thanksgiving and Awards Night

The College's End of Year Mass and Awards night always provides a wonderful opportunity for the College community to come together, reflect on the successes and achievements of the year and recognise those students and staff who have achieved excellence in their studies and broader endeavours.

A reminder that his year's Mass and Awards night has been brought forward a few days to allow more students and families to be present – it will be held on **Thursday 5th December** starting at 7.00 pm at St Thomas' Parish Church, Terang.

We are asking parents of Year 7-9 students to bring a plate of supper to share, if you can help, please ring Betty Kenna on 5592 6297 or 0407 052 019.

Booklists for 2014

Have been distributed to all homerooms for our current Year 7 – 11 students.

Mercy Regional College Car Raffle

Congratulations to all the winners. Please see full list of Car Raffle winners and sponsors on page 18.



Principal Dr. Darren Egberts presenting the keys to the winner of the car, Lisa Austin from Warrnambool.

Mercy Regional College 2013 Yearbook

Distribution of the 2013 College Year book will take place at the end of next week.

Yours in Mercy,

A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Dr. Darren Egberts, consisting of stylized loops and a long horizontal stroke.

DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

2013 Graduation

Mr. James Castles

As we say a fond farewell to the Year 12 "Class of 2013", we reflect that their years at the College have allowed them to experience, explore and grow through participation in a wide range of programs, activities and events. The list is extensive. They have included academic opportunities, leadership, music and performing, spirituality, sporting, creative arts, social justice. It has been our privilege to watch them all grow as a group and us individual through these activities.

Through their participation in these opportunities they have been able to find their strengths, skills and talents. As this part of their school journey finishes we hope they will continue to explore and find opportunities to develop their talents further.

These young people will look back and be grateful for the support of parents, family, teachers and friends. These are the people who have stood by them through the happy, challenging and difficult times. The foundations of who they are to become have been set through the College and home. We at the College are grateful for the support of parents over the years. Thank you very much. We want these young people to know that they leave the College knowing that their contribution has been valued, and they have made our school a better place.

Congratulations and well done to all those students who have always come to school and given their best. You are fantastic. To Genevieve Lee and Louis Hickey, congratulations and thank you for your leadership as College Captains. You are fine young people and you have represented the student body very well indeed.

The College community wishes our 2013 Year 12s all the best in your end of year results and for the future. We hope and pray for you on your journey of life. Know that this school values you and that you are always welcome here. Please remember us, because we will never forget you.

AWARD WINNERS	RECIPIENTS
Corangamite Citizenship Award ADF Leadership & Teamwork Award Caltex Allrounder VET Excellence Award VCAL Excellence Award South West TAFE Award University of Ballarat Achievement Award Mercy Arts Prize Award College Captains Presentation Principal's Award	Tony McKenzie Paige Gibson Genevieve Lee Rachael O'Connor Rachael O'Connor & Nathan Bailey Nathan Bailey Thomas Brett Liana Collins Genevieve Lee and Louis Hickey Louis Hickey
<u>CORE OF MERCY AWARD</u> Community Award Inclusiveness Award Learning Award Care Award Justice and Mercy Award Excellence and Achievement Award	Toby McKenzie Jesse Gaut Thomas Brett Liana Collins Verity Watt Zachary O'Flynn

Thank you to the following people:

- Star Printing for the Graduation Certificates
- Lush Events for the fabulous decorations
- Lorelle Salmon for our delicious meal and to Year 11 parents and waitresses for giving their time to help.
- Daniel Beard for preparing all the work for the certificates.
- Thank you to the office staff, especially Sue Bohm and Jenni Lenehan for all their help.

It is also important that we recognise the efforts of Jo Saunders and Father Matthew for the planning of the wonderful Graduation Mass and thank to Jo Williams for taking photos of the night.

The Graduation Ceremony is a time that really emphasises how special our College Community is, thank you again to all who attended and help make this such a memorable night for our Graduates.



MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

On the weekend of November 16 and 17, a significant milestone took place, celebrations for forty years of Catholic Education at Mercy Regional College Camperdown. Established in 1973, the Secondary College had a total of one hundred and twenty four students and ten staff, now boasting five hundred and five students and seventy-two staff.

Principal, Darren Egberts recalled the secondary campus came about after the Sisters of Mercy, which ran the District Primary School campus', signaled their intention to reduce the number of classes offered. When the Sisters indicated they would only offer classes until Grade 6, the parish rallied and formed Catholic Regional College in 1973.

Fr Bob Markey was here at the time and supported the concept of the new school along with parishioners. It was all done under the control of John Tindley, the founding Principal, a man of unbounding enthusiasm, who was the key to the success. The community has really embraced the school and in the last twenty years it has grown to have students attending from Lismore, Derrinallum and right down to the coast. Future plans over the next five years will incur over three stages so the Camperdown Campus can accommodate increasing numbers.

The celebrations included opening of the Noorat O'Keeffe Campus with school tours and morning tea. In the evening dinner and music was at the Five Star Function Centre at Camperdown with guest speakers, ex-student, Professor Michael Ryan, Head of Biochemistry at La Trobe University, Karen Glennen, Yr 7 student 1973 and Justin Staunton and Lesa Thornton, teachers at the College for over thirty years.



Past students and friends and the 2014 school captains Tom Cheslett and Laura Justin.

On Sunday, Mass was celebrated at St Patricks Church with Fr. Matthew Thomas and included many past and present students & staff and their families. Mass was followed by tours of the McAuley Campus, BBQ lunch, archive displays, time capsule unveiling from twenty-five years ago, arts displays and the annual car raffle. The weekend was a wonderful reflection and celebrations of forty years at the College.



L-R: Ben Brisbane, Fr Matt Thomas, Darren Cheeseman and James Castles.



Dr Andrew Watson, Current Principal Dr Darren Egberts, Chair of the Mercy board Gerard Ryan, past principal Kerin Glennen and past principal Liam Davidson.

From the Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Jo Saunders

“Thank you Water”

For sale next week at O’Keeffe Campus at Noorat \$2.00 per bottle until sold out.

Bottles of **Thank you water** will be for sale starting next week, Monday 2nd December at the Noorat Campus. They are available from the canteen at recess and lunch each day until sold out. \$2 per bottle. 80 cents from each bottle goes to the Social Justice Account at Mercy and helps to maintain the cost of the child we are sponsoring through St Vincent De Paul Overseas Partnerships. The Social Justice group will be paying \$70 per year to support a child through school. The profit from the **Thankyou water** will help to cover this cost ready for 2014.

Vinnies Christmas giving

As in past years, Mercy Regional College is very proud to be supporting the local Vinnies groups as they support needy families in the district. Each homeroom and all staff gather to donate gifts to members of needy families and the gifts are distributed through the local St Vincent De Paul conferences. This year at MRC we are collecting gifts for over 80 individuals. Students are reminded that gifts are to be brought to school by Monday December 2nd and will be handed over to the Vinnies Conference representatives at our end of year Mass of Thanksgiving and Awards night to be held on Thursday December 5th at St Thomas’ Church Terang.

Mass of Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony – 5th December 2013

This year as in the past, Mercy Regional College will mark the end of the Academic Year with the Mass of Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony. This is held at St Thomas’ Church On Thursday December 5th at 7pm. This special Mass marks the end of the school year and we gather to give thanks for all that this Year as a school Community has brought us. We give thanks for lessons learnt, friendships, support of teachers and for the way we have reached out to others through many school programs and participated in so many school events.

The Mass concludes with our 2013 Awards Ceremony. Students receive awards not only based on academic results, but commitment to the school community, service to others, achievement in particular fields in the Arts, in sports and in creative sector as well as in individual subject areas at each Year level. Some community awards are also presented at this special night.

It is a night for celebration and for families! This Mass and Awards Ceremony then concludes with a wonderful supper at the St Thomas’ Parish Hall as we bid farewell to students and families for another year. Being a school event we ask that students attend in their full summer school uniform. Please mark the date on your family calendar and be there to celebrate the Eucharist and the achievements of many students across all year levels.

We ask that families of year 7 – 9 students kindly provide a plate of supper to share.

BIBLES in 2014.....Sharing God’s word and welcome

Beginning in 2014, students will be presented with a Bible as part of their welcome into Secondary Catholic Education. The Catholic Youth Bible will be presented to each student beginning Year 7, as a welcome to our school and is theirs to use for the six years of education at Mercy Regional College. Bibles will be presented at the Commencement Mass on Wednesday 5th February at 9:30 am in the De Chantal Stadium at McAuley Campus. All parents are very welcome to attend. Each Bible will have a personalized name plate and as each student is welcomed into our school formally, their name will be called and they will be presented with their Bible.

Please note that the Bible has been deleted from the Year 7 booklist as a result of this change in ceremony and is only on the Year 8-12 booklist as an indication that students should retain the Bible for use in subsequent years throughout their education at Mercy.

Typhoon Haiyan Aid Response

Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms to ever make landfall, has caused widespread devastation in the Philippines.

Over 10 million people are now in need of emergency aid relief.

The international Caritas network is responding to the disaster, quickly mobilising to address emergency needs such as shelter, food, clean water, sanitation, hygiene and household relief.



How is Mercy Regional College raising money and hopes for the Philippines?

Christmas biscuits have been sold at the 40th birthday celebrations and the donations are adding up for the CARITAS Philippines Typhoon appeal.

- Junior Social Justice Team members decorated boxes and the senior Social Justice team filled them with delicious biscuits baked by Chloe Barake, Edward Glennen and Myah Wetermans with the help of Jenny O'Neil and Sue Brisbane.
- Our Year 11 students are having a dress up day on Friday to add to the \$ raised.
- On the Wednesday December 4th, during the last week of school, Year 9 and 10 students can buy a BBQ lunch and drink also as a fundraiser for the appeal.

Caritas Australia will be directly helping 93,000 families

As part of the international Caritas network's planned response. We are targeting the worst hit coastal areas in Ormoc and Palo in Leyte, and Basey in Samar amongst other areas. Initial relief efforts include:

- 39,000 tarpaulins for emergency use
- Emergency shelter
- 1 million water purification tablets to ensure people have access to safe, clean drinking water
- Water supply and hygiene, including latrines, bathing cubicles and water tanks
- Cash for work programs to help remove debris and facilitate the delivery of aid
- Essential food aid
- 40,000 household relief kits



Mercy Regional College 2013
Thanksgiving Mass
and Student Award Ceremony

Followed by
Supper in the St Thomas' Parish Community Centre

Kindly catered by Year 7-9 parents

	SESSION 1		SESSION 2		SESSION 3	
DAY	EXAM	ROOM	EXAM	ROOM	EXAM	ROOM
FRIDAY 29 th NOVEMBER	ENGLISH Reading Time: 9:25 – 9:30 am. Writing Time: 9:30– 10:55 am.	Homeroom	Classes as normal	Timetabled Classroom	SCIENCE Reading Time: 1:20 – 1:25 pm Writing Time: 1:25– 2:50 pm	Homeroom
MONDAY 2 nd DECEMBER	MATHEMATICS Calculator: 9:25 – 10.10 am. Non-calculator: 10.10 – 10.55 am.	Homeroom	Classes as normal	Timetabled Classroom	HUMANITIES (SOSE) Reading Time: 1:20 – 1:25 pm. Writing Time: 1:25– 2:50 pm	Homeroom

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Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Mr. Kerin Glennen

Online games have become quite prominent especially on social media sites. Some games simulate gambling using virtual credits, whilst others are real betting games using real money. Research has found gaming apps are making gambling more acceptable and attractive to young people and making gambling more socially acceptable.

The apps promote misleading information about gambling, often paying out a higher rate than real gambling games.

Many online gambling games are not regulated like traditional gambling. Watch out for ADS that click through to gambling APPS. Turn off in App purchase options to limit access to credits.

Australian based gambling sites are likely to be more diligent in preventing minors from using their sites and responding to complaints because, they are governed by local laws. The best choice however is always prevention e.g. set up alerts to come to your phone for any purchases so you can track your child's smart phone, iPod touch or tablet spending....install and keep up to date a firewall, antivirus software.

Use the Cyber Safety button from the Australian Governments cyber safety website. www.cybersafety.dbcde.gov.au has information for parents about online games and staying safe online.

Year 9 Drama Performance

Ms. Janet Backhaus

On Friday 22nd November the Year 9 drama class performed their own modern version of the Cinderella story for the prep and grade one/two students at St Pats.

We all had a ball improvising, devising and rehearsing together. So it was a real treat to see the students perform and watch the delighted faces of the children. Well done Year 9 drama, it was a top performance.



Front row:

Kasey Zentai

Middle row:

Rebecca Daffy, Katie Erwin, Olivia Martin

Back row:

Charlie Heath, Brooke McInnes, Melissa Evans, Mollie Gaut, Angus Place, Meg Lenehan, Emma Lucas, Jordyn Hickey, Gemma Lees, Jacoba Mungean, Chloe Collins.

2013 Dates

TERM 4

02 December

- * Student Leadership Camp
- * Year 7-10 Exams

03 December

- * Student Leadership Camp
- * Current Year 7 students – study day – no school
- * Year 9 & 10 Exams
- * Year 7 - 2014 Orientation day @ O'Keeffe Campus
- * Year 9 2014 Transition Day

04 December

- * White Card Training Day
- * Country Care Dental Service visit to Year 7s
9:30 AM – 10AM

05 December

- * End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Awards
7:00pm at St Thomas' Church, Terang
- * Year 9 First Aid Training - Group 1
- * Country Care Dental Service visit to Year 8s
9:30 AM – 10AM

06 December

- * Term 4 concludes (Year 7 - 10 students)
- * 2014 Booklists due to be returned
- * Year 9 First Aid Training - Group 2

13 December

- * Teaching Staff final day

17 December

- * St Patrick's Parish Carols 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

18 December

- * College Office closes

2014 SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

2014 BOOKLISTS

Booklists have been distributed to students this week in Homeroom. Complete and return the booklist to the College office by **Friday 6th December, 2013. DO NOT SEND** payment with the booklist, Warrnambool Books will send you a payment advice card in the mail advising you of the cost. Please remember to write your child's name and address on the booklist.

SALE AND PURCHASE OF SECONDHAND GOODS

Please see a copy of the letter on page 11 of the newsletter. This letter from the Principal was posted home to parents last week. As is detailed in the letter the College has introduced the use of the online company, "Sustainable School Shop", as the means by which parents and families buy and purchase second-hand school goods. Parents who register with the company by 19th December, 2013 will receive 12 months free registration and be able to trade directly with other parents and families - goods available to buy and sell include College uniform, second-hand books, calculators etc.

UNIFORM SHOP

For your convenience a uniform price list and order form is included on page 12 of the newsletter.

Pre-paid orders are to be completed and returned to the College office with payment by **Friday 6th December.**

Your order will be processed and available for collection from either campus, please nominate on the form which campus suits you for pick-up you will be phoned when the order is ready for collection.

Alternatively, parents can go directly to the uniform shop to purchase items.

See list of trading hours over the next three month.

DECEMBER 2013

Tuesday, 3rd December, 12 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 5th December, 12 – 2:00pm
Tuesday, 10th December, 12 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 12th December, 12 – 2:00pm
(this will be the last day Uniform Shop is open this year)

JANUARY 2014

Monday 20th January, 2014,
10am - 3.00pm
(School Book Collection Day)

Tuesday, 21st January, 12 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 23rd January, 12 – 2:00pm
Tuesday, 28th January, 12 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 30th January, 12 – 2:00pm

FEBRUARY 2014

Normal Trading Hours in February

Tuesdays
12 – 2:00pm
Thursdays
12 – 2:00pm

BOOK PARCEL COLLECTION DATE

Monday 20th January 2014 10am - 3pm.

A number of options for paying for your books are available on the day; check the front cover of the booklist.

2014 SCHOOL UNIFORM

All students are to be in full summer school uniform at the start of Term 1, 2014.

2014 STUDENT DIARIES

Will be distributed to students on the first day of school.

EMA [Education Maintenance Allowance]

For those parents on a Health Care Card who will be eligible to receive EMA next year. Please complete the form on pages 13 & 14 and return it to the College office by no later than **Wednesday 11th December, 2013.**

November, 2013

**Change to Purchasing of Secondhand
Books & Uniforms at Mercy Regional College**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The College has recently been investigating a significant change to the way that the trading in secondhand uniforms, books and other items is managed. For many years, the PTFA has facilitated a secondhand uniform/books sale day towards the end of the year. This has allowed parents and families to buy and sell goods at a cheaper price than new. For a number of reasons, we have decided to change this process and move to a new initiative whereby parents will be able to trade directly with each other and, where appropriate, with other parents and families beyond Mercy. This new initiative will be under the auspices of the online company, "Sustainable School Shop", an Australian company that has been used by a number of other Victorian Catholic schools successfully in recent years.

Given the significance of this decision, I have consulted widely with the College community speaking with parents and staff as well as principals in other schools who have moved to this system. The previous system has a number of issues that affect its capacity to work efficiently and to provide parents with a reliable service, these problems include:

- The sale is only run on one day in one site;
- Significant issues with labeling of goods, collection of unsold goods and monies and goods disappearing on the day;
- The increasing need for school administrative staff to provide organizational support;

Sustainable School Shop give an introduction to their service in the paragraphs below and in the leaflet attached to this letter. I strongly encourage families to familiarise themselves with the processes described and to call the SSS staff (Kathy or Richard) if you have any queries. There will be some limited help available from College Reception in the weeks leading up to the end of the school year. To make it easier for parents, we have provided a direct link to their website. Go to the College website on the toolbar click **"Parents"** then select from the drop down list "Sustainable School Shop" and this will take you directly to their website.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP INFORMATION

*We are delighted to inform you of a new initiative to provide parents with the ability to trade second-hand items via the "Sustainable School Shop". Families can list "For Sale" & "Wanted" advertisements online and the system then matches buyers with sellers. Results from other schools have been excellent; families have enjoyed a comprehensive and convenient method of trading these second-hand items. We are providing complimentary Annual Subscriptions until **19th December 2013** and would encourage parents to take full advantage of this opportunity. You need to nominate the College when you register on the Sustainable School Shop website to receive your complimentary Annual Subscription (lasts 365 days). Our service provides access to second-hand textbooks, uniforms, calculators, stationery, musical equipment, etc. all year round. Parents can even trade with other parents from different schools and sell items no longer in use at your College or other previously attended schools. The Mercy Regional College 2013 & 2014 booklists will be loaded onto our website by early next week. This will help parents with pricing of second-hand books.*

We have included a BUY & SELL leaflet with summarised information on how to get started. For enquiries and subscription pricing contact us on 1300 683 337 or help is also available through 'Contact Us' on our website @ www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au. The system is simple and easy to use - If you don't have a computer, internet access or email address, call Sustainable School Shop for assistance; you can pre-arrange the transaction and then trade after the texts are not required. We hope you will make the most of the opportunity to annually recycle your student's school items.

Richard and Kathy King – (Sustainable School Shop)


The College is also aware that many parents and families have not needed to use the PTFA's second-hand sale to trade books/uniform; rather, they have been able to arrange trades directly with parents or families. Obviously this systems suits many people and can continue as there is no requirement to use SSS if other means suffice.

Also attached is a separate letter from Mr. Chris Grant detailing the continued rollout of eBooks at Mercy Regional College; as is detailed, the expansion of the use of eBooks at Year 7 – 10 will decrease the need for parents and families to purchase paper editions of the texts. However, I wish to reinforce the message that parents who feel that their child would benefit from the support offered by a paper text are encouraged to do so in addition to the eBook.

Yours sincerely,




DR DARREN EGBERTS
Principal



MERCY
 Regional College

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
UNIFORM PRICE LIST (BACK TO SCHOOL 2014)
 1-13 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury VIC 3126 Phone: (03) 9836 3388, Fax (03) 9836 3057
 Email: sales@fcw.com.au Website: www.fcw.com.au
 Nicola Fletcher (Uniform Shop Manager) Phone: 0481 311 701



OPENING HOURS: 12PM – 2PM on TUESDAY & THURSDAY (DURING NORMAL SCHOOL WEEKS)

Uniform Items	Available Sizes	Select Size	Qty	Price
BOYS UNIFORM				
Jumper	10-16			\$80.00
Jumper	18-22			\$86.00
Jumper	24-26			\$92.00
Boys Short Sleeve Shirt	8-32			\$43.50
Trousers	10-16			\$57.00
Trousers	77R, 82R, 87R, 92R, 97R, 102R, 107R, 112R, 117R			\$59.00
Shorts	10-16, 77R, 82R, 87R, 92R, 97R, 102R, 107R, 112R, 117R			\$49.00
Belt	All Sizes			\$17.00
Socks (short – grey)	Small, Medium, Large			\$12.00 (for pack of 3)
GIRLS UNIFORM				
Jumper	10-16			\$80.00
Jumper	18-22			\$86.00
Jumper	24-26			\$92.00
Dress	8-12			\$64.00
Dress	14-18			\$67.00
Dress	20-24			\$69.00
Socks (short - white)	Small, Medium, Large			\$12.00 (for pack of 3)
Winter Skirt	8-12			\$68.00
Winter Skirt	14-18			\$72.00
Winter Skirt	20-24			\$78.00
Girls Short Sleeve Blouse	8-32			\$43.50
Tights	All sizes			\$10.50
ACCESSORIES				
PE Shorts	8-24			\$32.00
PE Polo Top	10-24			\$35.00
Tracksuit top (PE)	10-14, Small, Medium, Large, XLarge			\$52.50
Tracksuit pants (PE)	10-14, Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, XXLARGE			\$36.50
Waterproof Jacket (Spicer)	10-24			\$55.00
Hats	Slouch Hat			\$13.50
	Cap			\$13.50
Scarves	Navy or Maroon			\$12.50
Gloves				\$8.50
Backpack	Maroon			\$58.00
			TOTAL COST	

prices subject to change without notice

PAYMENT DETAILS (Parents to Complete)

☐ CHEQUE (enclosed is my cheque to Fashion Club Wear Pty. Ltd.) ☐ CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

CREDIT CARD NO: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

EXPIRY DATE: ____ - ____ Please charge my: ☐ Visa or ☐ Master Card

AMOUNT: \$ _____ SIGNED: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

CONTACT PHONE NO: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ YEAR LEVEL: _____

I wish to pick my order up from
(please tick a box)

☐ McAuley Campus, Camperdown

☐ O'Keeffe Campus, Noorat

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) **Parent/Guardian Application Form - 2013**

SCHOOL REF ID

The following details must be completed by the applicant (the concession card holder). EMA is payable by Direct Deposit (EFT) to the applicant, Direct Deposit to the school, or as a cheque payment.

SCHOOL NAME _____

APPLICANT / PARENT DETAILS

SURNAME _____
FIRST NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN/SUBURB _____ **STATE** _____ **POSTCODE** _____
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____
CENTRELINK PENSIONER
CONCESSION / HEALTH
CARE CARD NUMBER (CRN) _____ **OR** **FOSTER**
PARENT (*) _____ **OR** **VETERANS AFFAIRS**
PENSIONER _____

* Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Courts, etc.

EMA PAYMENT METHOD Please **TICK** the box below for your nominated EMA payment method

☐ **Direct Deposit to parent**

Payment will be made to your bank account by Electronic Funds Transfer (provide bank account details below)

☐ **Direct Deposit to school**

Payment will be made to school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses.

☐ **Cheque**

Payment will be made as a cheque which will be posted to the school

ACCOUNT NAME (e.g John Smith) _____

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (e.g Westpac) AND BRANCH _____

BSB No. _____ **BANK ACCOUNT No.** _____

* If you are unsure of the above details check your Bank Statements or enquire at your Financial Institution.

STUDENT DETAILS

CHILD'S SURNAME	CHILD'S FIRST NAME	STUDENT ID	DATE OF BIRTH DD/MM/YYYY	YEAR LEVEL

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collects your personal information for the purpose of administering the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment. Some personal information may be disclosed to other Victorian Government departments, such as the Department of Human Services, for the purpose of evaluation and monitoring of concession card services.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development may disclose some of your personal information to Centrelink to confirm that the details provided matches Centrelink's records. This is to be used for testing eligibility for EMA applications for 2013.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will provide the above bank account details to Westpac Bank for the sole purpose of making the EMA payment into your nominated bank account. The bank account details provided will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose. You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____ **DATE** ____/____/____

EMA Eligibility:

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2013 for instalment 1 and 2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:

on the first day of 1st Term (**29 January 2013**) for the first instalment and

on the first day of 3rd Term (**15 July 2013**) for the second instalment:

- (a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, **OR**
- (b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), **OR**
- (c) be a (temporary) foster parent **AND**
- (d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates

The application form must be lodged at the school by:

28 February 2013 for the first instalment or

2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

Important information

A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.

If your child transfers schools during the year, you will need to make an application at the new school.

How to Complete the Application Form

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT / PARENT

1. Complete the APPLICANT/PARENT DETAILS & STUDENT DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your Centrelink card - unless you are claiming as a Foster Parent or Veterans Affairs Pensioner. You will also need to provide your Centrelink card to the school.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, tick the appropriate box. In this case, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner card to the school.

2. Nominate your payment method for EMA. You can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (EFT) into your nominated bank account **or**
- Paid by direct deposit (EFT) to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses.
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection **or**

3. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

Enter SURNAME AND FIRST NAMES in full.

Enter the DATE OF BIRTH e.g. 15/09/2007.

Enter the YEAR LEVEL, unless the student is ungraded, e.g. attending a Special School or Language Centre, then enter 'UNGRADED' in the YEAR LEVEL column.

4. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

Queries relating to eligibility and payments of EMA should be directed to your school.

November, 2013



Dear Parents,

Cybersafety is one of the most confronting issues for teachers, parents and of course students. It is the number one non-academic problem that schools have to tackle, often on a daily basis. Whereas most of the inappropriate behaviour occurs at home, schools are responsible for trying to sort out the mess when a student's online behaviour affects their relationships within the school community.

Children today have access to and are accessible by many millions of people worldwide via the vast array of websites, applications and online-games. Other identified dangers include exposure to inappropriate content, cyber bullying and harassment, 'sexting' and identity theft. Teens are often not aware that their words and or photos, which may have been intended for a small audience, sometimes find their way to a larger one, often with both the unexpected and undesirable consequences.

Today's parents grew up in a world devoid of these technologies. They often have little knowledge on how best to assist and guide their children, Mercy Regional College is not immune to these issues and unfortunately, I and other members of staff have had to deal with students who have conducted themselves online in a way that has caused hurt and offence to other students.

Mercy Regional College takes the issue of Cybersafety education very seriously and is taking a proactive approach by affording parents the opportunity to be informed about the serious nature of this issue, and I have much pleasure in inviting you to a Cybersafety Presentation for parents. This presentation will be held on Monday 28th April in the de Chantal Stadium. It is suitable for ALL parents, regardless of the age of your son or daughter and will be delivered by Australia's foremost expert on this issue, Susan McLean. It is never too early or late to be informed about this important topic and I stress to you the importance and the schools expectation that at least one parent will attend.

The session outline can be found on the reverse side of this letter and further information about Susan McLean can be found at www.cybersfetyolutions.com.au

I strongly encourage your attendance at this very important evening. As parents, you have a very important role to play in the minimising of cyberbullying, 'sexting' and harassing behaviours online and this presentation will assist you to develop CyberSafety measures for your own family to ensure that your children remain as safe as possible when using the fabulous technologies available to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emily Stephens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

EMILY STEPHENS
Student Welfare

kEePiNg SaFe iN cYbErSpAcE

An informative, entertaining and enlightening session for Parents and Carers of young children and adolescents and will cover:

- ❖ Popular sites for youth – What are they?(including MSN instant messaging, social networking sites such as Facebook, virtual chat rooms such as Club Penguin, Habbo and the dangers of online games such as World of Warcraft.)
- ❖ What do kids do online? Where do they go? The difference between an 'online friend' and a 'stranger.'
- ❖ Online Grooming – What is it and when/how does it occur?
- ❖ Misuse of mobile telephones, email, MSN, blogs, webcam etc.including legal consequences and the possible criminal charges. (What is cyber bullying and harassment?)
- ❖ 'Sexting' – the taking and sending of explicit images...what are the REAL consequences and potential criminal charges.
- ❖ Potential dangers and safety tips – how to assist the children in your care to stay safe online.
- ❖ Learn the lingo.....be able to converse with your children in the language of cyberspace.
- ❖ Be confident in setting rules and boundaries around internet use in the home.
- ❖ The session will conclude with time for questions and Susan provides a range of useful handouts and information about where to go to access further-up-to date information.

CYBERBULLYING

The link below is to a story called Chloe's Law. This story has been running on 60 minutes.

Chloe's law is about a young girl that completed suicide. A very sad story, that relates a lot to cyberbullying. This story has been used in Pastoral Care classes over the last couple of weeks to highlight the importance of staying safe online.

If you have access to an iPad the following app will get you to the clip.

1. Download 60 minutes app for free.
2. From there press the link 'Rewind' and click on the story 'Chloe's law'.
3. Below this story are also links for parents about cyber safety, strategies from expert Susan McLean and other relevant information about online safety.

If you do not have access to an iPad and Wifi, type the following URL in to your browser and this should give you the story.

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2138515171001?bctid=2821806487001>

Chloe Fergusson was just like any other 15-year-old girl - she loved hanging out with her friends, talking about boys and she was always on Facebook.

Like so many teenagers, Chloe knew what it meant to be bullied. For years she'd endured verbal and physical assaults but when Chloe went home and shut her bedroom door, the bullies were still there. Because the latest, possibly greatest, weapon in bullying is social media.

For Chloe, the impact was devastating. Last month, she took her own life.

It's left her friends and family shattered and now her sister Cassie is on a one-woman crusade to make bullying a crime.

Support services

If you are feeling distressed, talk to someone you trust or call one of the following free 24/7 crisis support services:

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467



EMILY STEPHENS

Student Welfare

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
2013 ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE RESULTS

1ST PRIZE: FORD FOCUS AMBIENTE HATCH – VALUE \$25,990

Supplied courtesy of Rex Gorell Geelong

Proudly supported by Camperdown Autosales

Winner: Lisa Austin, Warrnambool

2ND PRIZE: TRAVEL VOUCHER – Value \$2,000

Supplied courtesy of Harvey World Travel, Camperdown

Winner: Shelley Rippon, Camperdown

3RD PRIZE: ELECTRICAL VOUCHER – Value \$1,000

Supplied courtesy of Camperdown Betta Home Living

Winner: Sandra Mason, Camperdown

4TH PRIZE: NUTRIMETICS PAMPER PACK - Value \$250.00

Supplied courtesy of Helen Bourke, Kolora

Winner: Nell O'Sullivan, Terang

5TH PRIZE: FUEL VOUCHER – Value \$250.00

Supplied courtesy of Riordan Fuels & BP Camperdown

Winner: Russell Pollock, Chocelyn

6TH PRIZE: CLOTHING VOUCHER – Value \$250.00

Supplied courtesy of Fashion Club Wear, Canterbury

Winner: Burrows Family, Camperdown

7TH PRIZE: JEWELLERY VOUCHER – Value \$200

Supplied courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown & Colac

Winner: Eddie Kenna, The Sisters

8TH PRIZE: GIFT VOUCHER – Value \$200

Supplied courtesy of Café 153 on Manifold, Camperdown

Winner: Jim Lawlor, Camperdown

9TH PRIZE: DINNER VOUCHER – Value \$100

Supplied courtesy of Madden's Bar & Bistro, Camperdown

Winner: Narelle Williams, Noorat

10TH PRIZE: GIFT VOUCHER – Value \$100.00

Supplied courtesy of Timboon Railway Shed Distillery

Winner: David Mathams, Camperdown

The Mercy Regional College Parents and Friends Association would like to acknowledge the generosity of:

Trevor Lee, John Cheslett & Staff of Camperdown Autosales
Harvey World Travel, Camperdown
Jacinta Lee, Camperdown Betta Home Living
Helen Bourke, Kolora
Riordan United Fuels & BP Camperdown
Fashion Clubwear, Canterbury
Showcase Jewellers of Camperdown and Colac
Café 153 on Manifold, Camperdown
Commercial Hotel & Bistro, Camperdown
Timboon Railway Shed Distillery

Thank you to all Parents, Staff & Friends of the College for your generous support in making our Annual Car Raffle such a success in 2013.

Thank you to each business for selling car raffle tickets in their shops.

November, 2013



Dear Parents and Students,

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP 2014

The College is looking for expressions of interest from parents who would like their son/daughter to participate on a trip to Central Australia in September 2014.

The opportunity is offered to students currently enrolled in Years 8 & 9 at Mercy Regional College this year. The trip is strictly optional and will be for a duration of 10 days.

The trip will depart on Monday 15th September and returning Thursday 25th September.

The number of places available is dependent on student demand and the availability of supervising Mercy staff.

As a guide, the College has been quoted a cost of \$1100.00 per student if 80 students were involved.

An "Expression of Interest" form needs to be completed and returned to the College by **Friday 28th February, 2014.**

If you require any further information about the trip you can speak with Fr. Matthew Thomas by ringing the College office on 5593 2011.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Darren Egberts", written in a cursive style.

DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP 2014

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

STUDENT'S NAME:

YEAR LEVEL:

I am interested in my son/daughter participating in the Central Australia Trip to take place Monday 15th September to Thursday 25th September, 2014.

Parent / Guardian Signature:

Central Australia Tour 2014

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1, Camperdown and Noorat to Port Augusta

Students arrive at school at 6.00am for an early morning departure at 6.30am. We then travel via the Western Highway through Adelaide and on to Port Augusta where we will set up camp for the evening and have dinner. Students can bring lunch or purchase lunch at Taillem Bend.

(D)

Day 2, Port Augusta to Coober Pedy.

Early start this morning for the long journey to Coober Pedy through the vast South Australian outback to the worlds Opal capital. Mid-morning we will call in at Woomera Rocket Range where at the height of its testing programs in the 1950s was home to up to 5500 people from all over the world, testing long range missiles and rockets. Tonight we will stay underground at the Umoona Opal Cave and enjoy a town tour and Opal Cutting display.

(BLD)

Day 3, Coober Pedy to Kings Canyon

After leaving Coober Pedy we travel north to Marla and head across the Northern Territory border. We stop at Mt Connor lookout to view the Mesa rising almost 300 meters out of the desert plain. View Lake Armadeus, a giant salt lake in the distance. Continue through remote desert terrain to Kings Canyon, located in the Watarrka National Park where we set up camp mid-afternoon at Kings Canyon Resort. Students will have time for a swim or take a helicopter flight over Kings Canyon. (Flight not included in tour price) Flight info & costs TBA.

Parents & students please note there is no mobile phone coverage at Kings Canyon.

(BLD)

Day 4, Kings Canyon

This morning students have the opportunity climb to the top of Kings Canyon rim for rewarding spectacular views. Kings Canyon is one of Australia's natural treasures. On top of the canyon the cliffs are more than 300 meters high, descending down to the "Garden Of Eden" and Kings Creek at the bottom. The canyon has enchanted people for millions of years; some parts of the gorge are in fact sacred Aboriginal sites. There are two popular canyon hikes at Kings Canyon: The 6 km Kings Canyon Rim Walk and the 2.6 km Kings Creek Walk tracing the bottom of the gorge. The Rim Walk begins with a challenging 500-step climb. But it's worth every step. Upon reaching the summit, you will marvel at the breathtaking views of Watarrka National Park and into the canyon itself before descending into the green oasis of the "Garden of Eden."

(BLD)

Day 5, Kings Canyon to Uluru

After a later start to the day we pack up camp and travel the 2.5 hour journey to Uluru, after setting up camp at the Ayres Rock Resort, Yulara students will have a chance to explore the Yulara Township and pick up some souvenirs. Before dinner we enjoy a sunset viewing of Uluru.

Watching the colour of Uluru and Kata Tjuta change is truly spectacular. At sunrise, the giant monoliths emerge from the inky landscape, changing from purple through to rusty browns and red in the golden sunlight. Sunsets can be particularly spectacular when the sun sinks through cloud formations.

The colour changes result from the effects of the earth's atmosphere on the sun's incoming rays. The ash, dust particles and water vapour present in the earth's atmosphere act as a filter which can remove the bluer light from the incoming rays of the sun, allowing the redder light through at different times of day.

(BLD)

Day 6, Uluru

Today we visit the Uluru – Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre where aspects of Anangu life are presented. Students will have the opportunity if they choose to climb (weather conditions permitting), view/walk around the World's greatest monolith which rises to 348m. We will be joined this morning by our guide Leroy who will enlighten and entertain us with his stories relating to the Anangu and their ancient culture including why Uluru is such a special place for them.

What visitors call 'the climb' is of great spiritual significance to us. The climb is not prohibited, but we ask that you will choose to respect our law and culture by not climbing. When you visit the Cultural Centre you will learn more about the significance of Uluru in our culture.

Statement from Anangu people, Kata Tjuta website.

Anangu, traditional owners have looked after Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park's landscape for tens of thousands of years. For many people, the image of Uluru has become a national symbol for Australia and the natural and cultural heritage of the park has been recognized by the inscription of the park on the World Heritage List. This listing honors the traditional belief system of Anangu - one of the oldest human societies on earth. In the afternoon we will tour Kata Tjuta and enjoy one of the many walks available, then relax with some well-earned free time.

(BLD)

Day 7, Uluru to Alice Springs

Early start today as we leave Uluru and travel to Alice Springs stopping at Stewart Wells for a camel ride on the way. After our arrival and setting up camp students will take a town tour of Alice Springs and view the sunset from Anzac Hill. The most visited landmark in Alice Springs, Anzac Hill is the ideal spot for an overview of the town. The lookout affords a panoramic view of Alice Springs and the beautiful East and West MacDonnell Ranges. The Anzac Hill Memorial was unveiled on Anzac Day 25 April 1934 and was originally dedicated to all those members of the armed services who had paid the supreme sacrifice during World War I. Today the hill has now become a memorial to all those who have served in the defense of their country during all wars in which Australia has participated.

(BLD)

Day 8, Alice Springs

This morning we visit the Alice Springs Desert Park a unique flora and fauna park that demonstrates the three ecological habitats found in Central Australia. Hundreds of species of plants and animals found across Central Australian deserts can be seen, smelt and heard. We then travel to the MacDonnell Ranges and Ellery Creek for a swim, subject to water conditions and lunch, and perhaps a visit to Simpson's Gap if time permits. (Time permitting, students will be given free time in Alice Springs this afternoon) This evening students will enjoy the reptile show before or after dinner with Rex who is one of Australia's leading reptile experts, students can handle some of the lizards and a huge olive python if they wish.

(BLD)

Day 9, Good bye Alice Springs- hello again Coober Pedy

After packing up camp we then travel to The Royal Flying Doctor Service. The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Visitor Centre in Alice Springs, commenced operations in the late 1970's and since its inception it has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Central Australia. Approx 10am-10.30am we say goodbye to Alice Springs and start our journey back to Coober Pedy for our last overnight stay. Dinner at pizza parlour.

(BLD)

Day 10 Coober Pedy- Adelaide

After breakfast we travel just outside Coober Pedy to the breakaways, where scenes for Mad Max beyond thunderdome and other space films have been produced. We then set off on the trek home and lunch at Glendambo roadhouse then on to Port Augusta for a dinner stop both at student's expense. We then continue to Adelaide to pick up two fresh drivers for the last leg home.

(B)

Day 11

After greeting our 2 drivers we continue the journey back to Noorat & Camperdown. Arriving back approx 7.00am Noorat and 7.45am Camperdown

(BLD)

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

2014 Calendar Dates

Term 1

Monday 20th January

College Office opens

Book collection day

Monday 27th January

Australia Day holiday

Tuesday 28th January

Teaching staff commence

Friday 31st January

All students return

Wednesday 5th February

Commencement Mass

Year 7 – 9 Swimming Trials

Thursday 6th February

Year 7 Welcome BBQ

Friday 7th February

MRC Swimming Carnival

Monday 10th – Friday 14th February

Year 7 Camp

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 19th – Friday 21st February

Year 12 Retreat

Year 11 Camp

Friday 28th February

MRC Presentation Ball

No classes for Year 11 students

Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday

Monday 10th March

Labour Day holiday

Wednesday 12th March

School Photos

Thursday 27th March

Year 7 Retreat

Friday 29th March

Year 9 Retreat

Thursday 3rd April

Parent Teacher Interviews

(4pm – 8.30pm)

Friday 4th April

Parent Teacher Interviews

(9am – 1pm)

Student Free Day

Term 1 concludes