

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4-5

Wednesday, 18th December, 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.

The excitement of the upcoming Christmas celebrations and the holidays that follow is all around as I write this final newsletter for the 2013 school year. Before reflecting briefly on a few end of year matters, it is worth spending some time thinking about the very significant liturgical event in eight short days, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God. The readings this Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Advent highlight the transcendent nature of Christmas:

*"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.*

*For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."*
*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said
through the prophet:*

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us." (Matt 1:20-23)*
So, in the next seven days, as you sing the glorious Christmas carol, "Oh Come Emmanuel", take a moment to reflect upon the event that gave rise to the hymn.

End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Awards

Thank you to all students, staff and parents who attended the End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Awards at St Thomas' Church, Terang last Thursday week.

It was a fantastic and moving celebration of the Advent season and the achievements of students and staff during the 2013 school year. A full list of the award winners is included below.

Special thanks to those who were responsible for the evening – to Mrs. Jo Saunders, Fr. Gerry Prunty, Fr. Matthew Thomas and all who spoke or assisted with the Mass and to all staff who contributed to the organisation of the Awards ceremony.

Mercy Regional College Teacher of the Year

As has been highlighted in recent newsletters, the College introduced a new award last year with a teacher recognised for outstanding service and achievement in the fundamental vocation of teaching.

This year's winner of the Mercy Regional College Teacher of the Year Award is Mr James Castles. The nomination for James described him as *'a man having great knowledge, humour, commitment and sincerity...he knows our son, remembers our names as parents, he is interested and he cares. He is an inspirational, conscientious and committed teacher. Notwithstanding the leadership position he holds at Mercy, his senior students achieve results well above what is predicted by their GAT scores alone. As a leader, he is positive, self-reflective, challenging and prepared to take risks, qualities that he promotes and encourages in other staff and students.'*

Farewell

As the year concludes, we bid farewell to a number of staff, some for a short time, others for possibly much longer. They are:

Mrs. Clare Jehu

New appointment at Emmanuel College, Warrnambool

Ms. Kirsten Gibson

New appointment at Emmanuel College, Warrnambool

Mr. James Castles

Teaching in outback Western Australia

Mrs. Sarah Gellie

Family move to Queensland

We also bid farewell to Mrs. Jenny O'Neil who finishes her three years at Mercy, Mrs. Shelley Mutton and Mr. Leon Sjolund who supported the College in short-term contracts as well as Ms. Emily Field who has completed her term as the College's AFL Trainee.

VCE Results

Congratulations to the students in Year 11 and 12 who received their VCAA results yesterday and especially to Mr. Zachary O'Flynn who is the College's 2013 dux with an ATAR score of 94.15. Full details will be included in our first newsletter in 2014.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank you – the students, parents and families of Mercy – for the successful year we have enjoyed at Mercy. Each day at this College is a joy and a privilege and that is in most part due to you, the community that supports us.

I hope and pray that each of you has a safe, happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR THE REGION

CHRISTMAS EVE

Terang	5:00pm
Cobden	6:00pm
Timboon	6:00pm
Mortlake	7:00pm
Camperdown	7:30pm
Simpson	8:00pm
Terang	9:00pm
Lismore	9:30pm
Camperdown	Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Camperdown	9:30am
Caramut	9:00am
Terang	10:30am

2014 SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

BOOKLISTS

Reminder to parents to send their son/daughter's booklist into Warrnambool Books by the due date.

UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform shop trading hours for January and February, 2014 are listed below.

JANUARY 2014

Monday 20th January, 2014,
10am - 3.00pm

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.

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE 2013 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

YEAR 7 & 8 - O'KEEFFE CAMPUS AWARDS

ACADEMIC AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who achieved the highest academic marks in their homeroom when all subjects are taken into consideration.

Class	Recipient of Award
7A	Brianna Gass
7B	Ebony Davis
7C	Joshua Newcombe
7D	Gabrielle Beaver
8A	Sarsha Anderson
8B	Stella Baker-Campbell
8C	Tara Suri
8D	Sarah Van der Schans

HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated individual achievement during the course of the year and has demonstrated effort and commitment in their school work.

Class	Recipient of Award
7A	Ruby Suhan
7B	Tate Tregea-Copeland
7C	Meg Kenna
7D	Sian Jehu
8A	Ripley Watt
8B	Rebecca MacDonald
8C	Shelbie Carlin
8D	Stephanie Smart

HEAD OF O'KEEFFE CAMPUS EXEMPLAR AWARDS

The Head of O'Keeffe Campus Exemplar Award recognises one boy and one girl from across the Junior School for their outstanding leadership and example.

Class	Recipient of Award
8C	Brad Lucas
8D	Cheyenne Beaver

SPIRIT OF MERCY AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated a commitment to the core values of Mercy Regional College as expressed in our Vision and Mission Statement.

Recipient of Award	Year
Eliza Johnstone	7
Ripley Watt	8

YEAR 9 AWARDS

ACADEMIC AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who achieved the highest academic result for the subject listed.

Student Name	Subject
Jordyn Hickey	Religious Education
Ella Kissick	English
Dale Marquand	Mathematics
Stephanie Hibburt	Science
Lily Lourey	Physical Education
Hamish McConachy	History
Lachlan Bignell	Ag Studies
Ethan Domney	Computer Applications
Indira Kent	Food Technology
Dale Marquand	Woodwork
Liam Parker	Electronics
Emma Lucas	Textiles
Gemma Lees	Drama
Emily Battistello	Art
Emily Battistello	Art Journaling & Scrapbooking
Claire Kingston	Graphic Design
Jordyn Hickey	Music
Kate Hallyburton	Dance
Brooke McInnes	Active Learning Program
Meg Lenehan	Personal Development
Jessica Quick	Football

YEAR 9 HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated individual achievement during the course of the year and has demonstrated effort and commitment in their school work.

Student Name	Class
Hamish McConachy	9A
Liam Parker	9B
Emma Lucas	9C
Brooke McInnes	9D

SPIRIT OF MERCY AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated a commitment to the core values of Mercy Regional College as expressed in our Vision and Mission Statement.

Recipient of Award
Jacoba Mungean

YEAR 10 AWARDS

ACADEMIC AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who achieved the highest academic result for the subject listed.

Student Name	Subject
Mia Cain	Religious Education
Mia Cain	English
Mia Cain	Geography
Mia Cain	Food Technology
Joshua Rowan	Literature Short Stories
Jack Williams	Mathematics
Thomas Ryan	Science
Haylee Davis	Physical Education
Haylee Davis	Dance
Ben Finnerty	Construction Science
Stephanie Lee	History
Lucy Halloran	Commerce
Christopher Barks	Computer Applications
Grace Lucas	Textiles
Grace Lucas	Athletic Peak Performance
Deanne Fleming	Woodwork
Meagan Bone	Art
Olivia Giblin	Graphic Design
Olivia Giblin	Media Studies
Kaitlyn Martin	Art Photography
Hayden Moore	Agriculture
Hayden Moore	Automotive
Alanah Frost	Journalism
Billy Buckingham	Music
Kieren Gleeson	Drama
Kieren Gleeson	Personal Development Pathways

YEAR 10 HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated individual achievement during the course of the year and has demonstrated effort and commitment in their school work.

STUDENT NAME	CLASS
Natalie O'Connor	10A
Olivia Cunningham	10B
Chloe Yates-Knibbs	10C
Kieren Gleeson	10D

SPIRIT OF MERCY AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated a commitment to the core values of Mercy Regional College as expressed in our Vision and Mission Statement.

Recipient of Award
James Anderson

YEAR 11 AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who achieved the highest academic result for the subject listed.

STUDENT NAME	SUBJECT
Jen Rowan	Religious Education Year 11
Olivia Reed	VCE Units 1/2 English
Olivia Reed	VCE Units 1/2 Biology
Olivia Reed	VCE Units 1/2 Studio Arts
Samantha Molan	VCE Units 1/2 Foundation English
Emma Sargeant	VCE Units 1/2 Literature
Henry Kissick	VCE Units 1/2 General Mathematics-Advanced
Henry Kissick	VCE Units 1/2 Mathematical Methods
Cindy Unwin	VCE Units 1/2 General Mathematics
Myah Wetemans	VCE Units 1/2 Foundation Mathematics
Brodie Hill	VCE Units 1/2 Chemistry
Tom Cheslett	VCE Units 1/2 Physics
Lucy Halloran	VCE Units 1/2 Psychology
Stephanie Lee	VCE Units 1/2 History-Twentieth Century
Breanna Justin	VCE Units 1/2 Legal Studies
Maggie Rose	VCE Units 1/2 Accounting
Molly Quick	VCE Units 1/2 Health and Human Development
Amy Pemberton	VCE Units 1/2 Physical Education
Ella Clarke	VCE Units 1/2 Outdoor and Environmental Studies
Briony Kent	VCE Units 1/2 Product Design and Technology
Laura Glennen	VCE Units 1/2 Information Technology
Melissa Robbins	VCE Units 1/2 Food and Technology
Kate Kenna	VCE Units 1/2 Visual Communication Design
Meg O'Sullivan	VCE Units 1/2 Dance
Jack Danby	Certificate 2 Building Construction: Year 1
Zeya Robbins	Certificate 2 Hospitality: Year 1
Kelvin Marquand	Certificate 2 Furniture: Year 1
Samantha Molan	VCAL Industry and Enterprise
Dermott O'Connor	VCAL Personal Development

SPIRIT OF MERCY AWARDS

This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated a commitment to the core values of Mercy Regional College as expressed in our Vision and Mission Statement.

Recipient of Award
Joseph Arundell

OTHER SIGNIFICANT STUDENT AWARDS

ADF LONG TAN LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK AWARD

These awards are given to the students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader local community.

STUDENT NAME	YEAR
Oliva Giblin	10

KWONG LEE DOW YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Is an academic enrichment program for high achieving students and certificates are presented to the following students who have been accepted into the program.

STUDENT NAME	YEAR
Georgia Lucas	10
Jack Williams	10

PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

Recipient of Award
Jordyn Hickey

MERCY ARTS PRIZE

Recipient of Award
Liana Collins

COLLEGE SPORTS AWARD

Recipient of Award
Johnathon Benallack

2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recipient of Award
James Castles

WINNING DESIGNER OF 2013 COLLEGE YEAR BOOK COVER

Recipient of Award
Toby McKenzie

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

Mrs. Maureen O'Loughlan

Manager of Learning Resource Centres

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Challenge during 2013. Students at Mercy are fortunate to be exposed to a wide range of activities designed to extend their knowledge. This Challenge provides students with an opportunity to improve and enhance their reading and literacy, and boost their learning capabilities and potential in the future.

As previously announced, a total of 1,283 books were read by the participants during terms 2 and 3. This is a fantastic achievement – well done! Thank you to all involved.

Year 7 & 8

Sarsha Anderson
Kaitlyn Atkins
Nina Barake
Ailie Bateman
Keira Blain
Samuel Bond
Skylar Carpenter
Henry Cavarsan
Samantha Evans
Hannah Faber
Carrina Free
Caitlin Gass
Brianna Gass
Rose Geddes
Isabella Giblin
Will Glennen
Erika Grant
Laura Hickey
Lauren Huth
Louis Johnstone
Shai Karney
Meg Kenna

Luke Lenehan
Rebecca McDonald
Samantha McKay
Demby McKenzie
Georgia Mannix
April Martin
Joshua Newcomb
Sarah Pekin
Tayla Reynolds
Martin Robbins
Erin Robertson
Sarai Ryan
Tara Suri
Faith Thornton
Hannah Townsend
Tate Tregea-Copeland
Alexander Wallace
Ripley Watt
Casey White
Sherry Xu

Year 9

Drew Barake
Rhys Casson
James Halloran
Jordyn Hickey
Julian Hill
Lily Lourey
Will O'Brien

Year 10

Victoria Conroy
Ebony Reynolds
Ella Van Donk

2013 Champions

Year 7	Tate Tregea-Copeland
Year 8	Sarsha Anderson
Year 9	Jordyn Hickey
Year 10	Ebony Reynolds

Reading Star Award – for outstanding effort during the Challenge:

Martin Robbins
Georgia Mannix

Noorat Show Report

Over seventy students from the O'Keeffe Campus were able to assist in the setting up of the Noorat Show. It was wonderful to see them engage positively with the adults who supervised them and work co-operatively as part of a team. The Noorat Show is run entirely by volunteers and our students helped to build the community spirit which is such a great part of the day.

We also had some success with student entries in various categories.

CREATIVE WRITING

Poetry – Open – 1st Alexis Thornton, 2nd Alannah Halloran, 3rd Ben Toose, 4th Jack Bell, Highly Commended Kaitlyn O'Neill.

HANDWRITTEN POETRY

Highly Commended Lauren Parker

CALLIGRAPHY

1st Tristan Gray

SHORT STORIES – OPEN

1st Brooke Hallyburton (also received a Reward of Excellence), 2nd Laura Hickey (also received a Special Prize), 4th Abby Burrows, Highly Commended Skylar Carpenter.

SHORT STORIES – 55 WORD MAX.

1st Brianna Gass, 2nd Meg Kenna, Kate Gaut, 3rd Demby McKenzie, Joshua Newcombe

ARTWORK

1st Casey White, 2nd Joshua Newcombe

HOME ECO PRIZE WINNERS

Highly Commended Awards went to Kaitlyn Atkins for her decorated cake. Gace Howard and Brianna Gass for their chocolate cake. I will also send a photo of Caitlin Quinn, Stella Baker-Campbell and Ellie Gunn preparing their cake for the show.



2014 Calendar Dates

Term 1

Monday 20 th 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 5 th February	Commencement Mass
	Year 7 – 9 Swimming Trials
Thursday 6 th February	Year 7 Welcome BBQ
Friday 7 th February	MRC Swimming Carnival
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th February	Year 7 Camp
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 19 th – Friday 21 st February	Year 12 Retreat
	Year 11 Camp
Friday 28 th February	MRC Presentation Ball
	No classes for Year 11 students
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday
Monday 10 th March	Labour Day holiday
Wednesday 12 th March	School Photos
Thursday 27 th March	Year 7 Retreat
Friday 29 th March	Year 9 Retreat
Thursday 3 rd April	Parent Teacher Interviews (4pm – 8.30pm)
Friday 4th April	Parent Teacher Interviews (9am – 1pm)
	Student Free Day
	Term 1 concludes



SIMPSON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

SIMPSON REC RESERVE

FRI 20th DEC

FROM 7.00pm FOR A FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE OR ENJOY

A LIONS MILK SHAKE(or BYO TEA)

ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS

ENJOY A NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS SONGS & MUSIC



**WITH
ANDREA WEEL**



(MUSIC FROM 7.45pm – PERFORMERS WELCOME)

BRING A PLATE OF SUPPER TO SHARE

TEA/COFFEE/CORDIAL PROVIDED

Enq. Andrea 5598 8142/0407 096 246

SUPPORTED BY SIMPSON LIONS, SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
SIMPSON REC RESERVE & SIMPSON FNC

