

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2-5

25th June, 2014

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 2014

In the Mercy tradition, we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

As we approach the end of term 2, we enter the real season of winter and the months of rain, wind and cold that it brings to Victoria's South-West. It is my favourite part of the year but I am certainly aware that many yearn desperately for the baking sun and long evenings of summer. Amongst those aspects that can make winter difficult are the bugs that bring on colds, flu and infections; here at Mercy, there are many staff and students who are currently battling through such illnesses. My prayer today brings to mind those who are sick, not just those who suffer the inconvenience of a winter cold, but also those in our community who are battling more serious and debilitating diseases.

Prayer for the Sick

*God of love and mercy,
You inspired Catherine McAuley to serve your Son
by responding to the needs of her time.
Moved by her care for the sick,
we ask that through her prayers
You reach out with your healing love
and restore all who are sick or suffering to full health.
We ask this in complete confidence
Through Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Amen*

New Arrival

Congratulations to Melanie and Luke Bouchier on the safe arrival of Henry Francis Bouchier on Wednesday 18th June, Henry Francis weighed a healthy 8 pounds and will provide his brother Nathaniel with many years of entertainment.

Holidays

A reminder that classes finish early at 2.15pm this Friday for the term 2 holidays and that school returns on Monday 14th July for Term 3.

As has been highlighted in recent newsletters, **Tuesday 15th July will be a student-free day** for all Mercy Regional College students as staff participate in a Religious Education Professional Learning day at the Noorat Community Centre.

We will be privileged to host world-renowned New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine for the day and our staff will be joined by those of Trinity College, Colac and Emmanuel College, Warrnambool.

2015 Mercy Regional College Enrolments

A reminder to all current and prospective Mercy parents that enrolment application forms need to be handed in to the College office by 3.00pm on Friday 27th June. The next stage in the 2015 enrolment process will be enrolment interviews with prospective students and parents, these are due to be held on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th July.

Student Activities

A number of student activities are occurring in the last week of term:

- Congratulations to all students who completed very successfully at the district SW Cross-country finals in Hamilton. A number of our students will now travel to compete in the State Cross-country finals to be held early next term.
- Good luck to the Unit 3-4 Outdoor Education students who are currently in the Grampians. The forecast wintry weather will make walking somewhat more challenging than normal.
- Today, a number of students selected for their high capacity in areas such as problem solving and independent thinking have participated in a full day workshop at the College's O'Keeffe Campus. Entitled, the 'Think Tank', the day offered a range of group-based problem solving tasks, guest speakers and other activities and I would like to thank Mrs. Leesa Henriksen for her initiative and efforts in this.
- This week, a small number of students participated in the Leukemia Foundation's Shave for a Cure. I congratulate them both for their courage in giving up their hair in this cold weather but, more importantly, for the work each undertook in promoting this very important cause.

Congratulations

On Friday 20th June during the Vocal Session of the Warrnambool Eisteddfod Mollie Gaut (Year 8) received a number of awards.

- Honourable mention in the 15 & U Own Choice section for 'People Help the People'.
- 1st Place in the 15 & U Australian Composer section for 'True Blue'.
- 1st Place in the 15 & U Contemporary section for 'Butterfly Fly Away'.

Mollie had some tough competition as there were quite a few competitors from Ballarat, plus local singers from Warrnambool. Well Done Mollie.

Celebrating the Good

In light of the success of this week's Shave for a Cure, I want to personally congratulate all students, staff and families who have so generously donated money to the various fundraisers held during this term. Notwithstanding the remarkable amount of money collected evening more pleasing for me has been the degree of support that those students driving the initiatives have received. This was highlighted yesterday as I watched the McAuley Campus 'Shave for a Cure' where more than 200 students and staff came together to support Joseph Arundell and Dermott O'Connor. I am certain that similar scenes occurred at the O'Keefe Campus in support of Laura Hickey. Well done to all!

Hoping that each member of the Mercy community enjoys a safe, restful and happy mid-year school holiday break.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

Deputy Principal Wellbeing

Mr. Kerin Glennen

Exams

Well the students have completed the first round of 'major' exams/tests and we are now officially half way through the education calendar for 2014. Tests/exams are part and parcel of education and indeed life. When we go for our driving license you need to do a test or when you are asked to sit an aptitude test for a job and/or going for your gun license, you have to prepare yourself.

The same can be said for students in school, staff prepare exams not to trip a student up but to assist them in their education. In VCE students are subject to external exams and as such they feel the pressure building up prior to the exams in November.

Staff support students and parents, through running extra classes after school or at lunch times or giving extra tuition. The students may wish to attend some of these classes. If a student/ parent has a concern that may have arisen after the Parent, Student and Staff report evening earlier in the year then please contact the appropriate teacher and or the coordinator. Please do not let a small issue become a concern - work with staff to solve the issue.

Tips that may help parents and students in any year level at Mercy:

Establish a routine:

Set aside time each evening where you can study, revise or do homework.

Create a study environment:

No need for mobile phones, TV or iPads to be with you all the time. Get yourself a comfortable chair and desk.

Set a timetable:

This is difficult due to sport commitments, family outings and other interruptions. However having a realistic timetable that works is helpful for the student to learn how to prioritise and work towards not handing in work late.

Look after yourself:

Eat healthy, keep sugar foods to a minimum. Make certain you have enough sleep and you do not need your phone or iPad to sleep with you. Do some sort of regular exercise, it is good for you, so where possible continue with your regular exercise.



Avoid interruptions:

Prior to you beginning your study/homework, gather up all your books, pens and paper so you do not have to stop to find something. This is a great time to charge up your battery for your iPad or phone in another part of the house. This saves you being distracted, let's face it they will ring you back later.

Don't panic at exam/test time:

If you have followed a study routine and have revised your work from classes, there should be no need to worry. Keep calm and remain confident.

Talk with your teachers:

If you are not certain of an answer or you are a little confused, then speak with your teacher. Both Campuses have catch up/study time after school and or at lunch time. This is an ideal time to catch up with the teacher and or email them with a question.

We have a wonderful community, by working together and helping each other we become even stronger.

From the Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Jo Saunders

Sr. Karen Schneider Report

On May 29th Mercy Regional College was very honored to host Sr. Karen Schneider. Sr. Karen is a pediatric emergency practitioner at John's Hopkins Hospital USA and she spent the day speaking to students about her work taking pediatric resident doctors to third world countries and supporting those most in need. Her talks focused around the problems in lack of sanitation and worming tablets, which can save the lives of children and young adults. She also spoke of the surgeries required in places such as Haiti some countries in Africa and South America where families may wait months for doctors to visit a clinic.

Year 10 and Year 12 students were regaled by her stories and vision as were the members of the Social Justice team at the O'Keeffe Campus. Finally, in the evening, Sr. Karen was guest at a dinner for 23 members of the school community including Year 9 through to 12 students and parents. During dinner, Sr. Karen spoke of the opportunities for young people to use their skills and talents to support those in need all around the world. It was very inspiring and a privilege to have Sr. Karen with us. We will begin to support her cause with some fundraising in the near future.



Sr. Karen with the Junior Social Justice team

Mercy Fashion Relief Report

On Tuesday 27th May, The Social Justice Team held a highly successful 'Mercy Fashion Relief' night to raise funds for 'Mercy Beyond Borders'.

This night was attended by about 80 people and was to showcase fashion stores in the district with their winter range of clothing.

Under the wonderful guidance of Year 12 student Briony Kent (photo below), the team organised a night of fashion and fun with many raffles prizes donated by participating stores.



Staff and students and parents were among the models and they paraded with flair and finesse!

The night raised over \$2000 for 'Mercy Beyond Borders' to empower women and girls in South Sudan and Haiti.

We would like to thank the following stores who contributed to the night:

- ❖ Imperial Living/Who's Jack
- ❖ Affordable Elegance
- ❖ Curls Surfwear
- ❖ Clobber Shop
- ❖ Loaf and Lounge
- ❖ Laffs

Without their generosity and community spirit the night would not have been so successful. It was a great community night with a cause.

The Social Justice team would like to thank the Year 10 Food students who helped with the wonderful supper and staff including Tania Bruckner and Lyn Davies who supported the night as well.

A special mention should go to Danny Gordon and Mark Evans for their adjustments to the stadium after our Feast Day celebrations, which helped make the night a success.

The photo below is of three former parents of MRC supporting 'Mercy Fashion Relief'.



Margaret Clissold, Vicki Brebner and Julie Davis.



Maggie Rose



Audience enjoying the show.

Shave for a Cure / Crazy Hair Day

Held on Tuesday 24th June the Crazy Hair Day and Shave for a Cure were held at both O'Keeffe and McAuley Campuses together this week. Laura Hickey, Joseph Arundell and Dermott O'Connor were the three brave students who dared to have their heads shaved. The day was a very colourful one, with students wearing their own crazy hair styles and supporting the students by bringing a gold coin donation.

Hot Chocolates were sold at O'Keeffe Campus to support Laura and Dermott who decided to sell wax strips for his legs as well.

Joseph and Dermott organised a wonderful raffle with prizes donated by:

- ❖ Helloworld Travel
- ❖ Wheatsheaf Hotel
- ❖ Timboon Pub
- ❖ Fat Cow Café
- ❖ Milk and Honey

The raffle winners were as follows:

- 1st prize a \$200 voucher from 'Helloworld Travel' went to Eileen Arundell.
- 2nd Prize was \$50 voucher from Timboon Hotel, \$30 voucher from Milk & Honey, \$20 voucher from Fat Cow Café all went to Dominic Cavarasan.
- 3rd Prize a \$50 voucher from 'Wheatsheaf Hotel' went to Scott McKenzie.

The total amount raised by Mercy Regional College for the 'Leukemia Foundation' was \$2041.20.

A great day was had by all and these brave students should be commended for their community spirit and they are thankful to all the students of the school for supporting the cause.

Crazy Hair Spray was provided by the Social Justice Team (photos from the day below).



Gloria Duynhoven



Jordyn Hickey



Dermott having his legs waxed.



Dermott having his head shaved.



Joseph having his head shaved.



The end result – Dermott & Joseph – well done.

Year 7 & 8 Requirements for Term 3

Mrs. Fiona Sargeant – Head of Teaching and Learning

English texts

Next term all **Year 7** students will be studying a novel, in digital format, as part of the English program. The prescribed novel is *Dragonkeeper* by Australian author, Carole Wilkinson. Students will immerse themselves in a thematic approach to the study of Ancient China across both the Humanities and English curriculum.



This novel, along with existing resources, will be central to that theme.

All **Year 8** students will also be studying a novel, in a digital format, as part of their English program.

The novel is *The Dons* by Australian author, Archimede Fusillo. We have engaged this author to conduct a writing workshop with the students during the term. In the past, we have found this to be a valuable experience for all participants.



These novels can be purchased as eBooks for use on the iPad. They are both available from the iBooks Store for \$12.99, using the students' Apple ID. Please ensure that the eBook is in place for the beginning of Term Three.

General supplies

I would like to remind all students to check that they have replenished their stationery needs for the remainder of the year. There are a large number of students who do not have the basic requisites for classroom work. Coloured pencils, rulers, erasers and workbooks seem to be in short supply. **Year 8** students must have a scientific calculator (*Sharp – 506X-WH*) for Mathematics classes and the end of year exams. These are available from Warrnambool Books and some news agencies.

O'Keeffe Report

Mr. Tony Wynd – Campus Coordinator

At the O'Keeffe Campus things are starting to wind up after a very busy term. It is pleasing to see how the Year 7s have settled in to the Campus and are coping with the change of pace from primary school.

Most students have risen to the task and have learned the value of being organized, especially at the end of semester when different teachers all need assignments and tasks completed. On Monday they all went to see Mortlake College's production of the 'Wizard of Oz'.

I have been very impressed with the way the Year 8's conducted themselves during the exam period. They followed all instructions well and most applied themselves well to the task at hand.

On Tuesday, 24th June, Laura Hickey had her head shaved to raise money for the Leukemia Foundation. Hot chocolate and a slice at recess proved to be a very popular fundraiser for Laura and she certainly had a cold day to lose her hair! Well done on being brave and volunteering for this.



Laura having her head shaved by former student Louise Marshman.

Students from O'Keeffe have also been busy representing the school in cross country and netball events. They were all very competitive and congratulations go to Nick O'Connor and Tully Watt for making the state championships in the cross country.

At the end of May there was a performance held for students on bullying issues. It was called 'The Hurting Game' (see photo below).



Hopefully by the start of next term students will have 4 new basketball goal posts and half courts to play on. Thanks to Danny Gordon for his work here. The old Chapel and Home Eco rooms have also been painted and look really smart.

As part of Maths and Science work there have been a number of students who have worked in the vegetable gardens and have that area looking really good. At present we have lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, parsnip, celery, mint and silverbeet planted, and the group is looking forward to a good harvest at the end of Term 3.

Early in August next term, 10 students from Year 8 will be taking part in the annual Thomas Carr College / Mercy Regional College exchange – interviews for all students who have expressed an interest will be straight after the holidays.

We have also had a number of visitors to the College, speaking to the students – Mrs. Helen Kenna, Dr. Joshua Saunders (photo below) and members from St Vincent de Paul.



We also had Gracie, Stanley and Aubrey visiting from Virginia, USA who are staying with Polly and Henry Moloney and family. It is great to have the knowledge and experience of other people to share with the students.



Gracie from Virginia, with student Meg Kenna.

Sports Report

Stacey Hillman

We were very fortunate enough to compete in lovely conditions at the Greater Western Cross Country held in Hamilton on Friday 6th June. Our students all participated to the best of their ability and we had a number of students who will now progress onto the State Final held in July in Bundoora.

Individual placings go to Tully Watt, Xavier Mungean, Nick O'Connor, Kate Hallyburton, Jack Atkins and Josh Hickey. The U16 boys team will also progress on. Thank you to the parents who attended on the day.

Term 2 has now come to an end and we can reflect on what has been a very successful first semester for MRC in all sporting events. We are very fortunate to have such a talent pool of athletes to choose from.

Term 3 promises to provide students with the opportunity to participate in basketball tournaments and our netball sides will progress onto the Greater Western finals.

A reminder to parents that the College prides itself on the sporting ability and participation of our athletes. However in recent times it has become apparent that some students are choosing not to attend MRC sports days. These days are compulsory and are a large part of the College's extra-curricular activities. Your cooperation in future is greatly appreciated.

These are a selection of photos from the Greater Western Cross Country held in Hamilton on 6th June.



Term 3 Dates

Monday 14 July

* **Term 3 commences for staff and students**

Tuesday 15 July

* **Student Free Day & Staff R.E. PD Day**

Thursday 17 July

* State Cross Country

Friday 18 July

* Malala Day - UN Campaign for Global Education

Monday 21 July

* HSSSD Basketball (Intermediate & Seniors)

Tuesday 22 July

* Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Ski Camp

Wednesday 23 July

* Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Ski Camp

Thursday 24 July

* Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Ski Camp

Friday 25 July

* Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Ski Camp

* GW Netball (Intermediate & Seniors)

Monday 28 July

* VCE Subject Information Session (7:30-9:00 PM)

Tuesday 29 July

* Year 7 2015 Enrolment Interviews (3:30-5:30PM)

Wednesday 30 July

* Year 7 2015 Enrolment Interviews (3:30-5:30PM)

Monday 4 August

* GW Table Tennis (Intermediate & Seniors)

* Thomas Carr Exchange Program

Tuesday 5 August

* Thomas Carr Exchange Program

* Peter's Project Dress-up Day

Wednesday 6 August

* Thomas Carr Exchange Program

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Thursday 7 August

* Thomas Carr Exchange Program

* Year 11 Street Retreat

* Guest speaker - Archie Fusilo (Year 8)

Friday 8 August

* Thomas Carr Exchange Program

Monday 11 August

* GW Netball (7 & 8)

Tuesday 12 August

* Year 10 Retreat

Wednesday 13 August

* Year 10 Retreat

Thursday 14 August

* Year 10 Retreat

Monday 18 August

* Mid Term Break – no school for staff & students

Wednesday 20 August

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Thursday 21 August

* Year 11 Street Retreat

* Seeds of Justice Regional Event at Araluen

Friday 22 August

* Seeds of Justice Regional Event at Araluen

Wednesday 27 August

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Thursday 28 August

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Monday 1 September

* HCSN Transition Day

Tuesday 2 September

* Country Kids Transition Day

Wednesday 3 September

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Thursday 4 September

* Year 11 Street Retreat

* Mercy Instrumental Music Evening (7 PM-9:30 PM)

Friday 5 September

* Teaching Staff PD Day

Wednesday 10 September

* P/T/S Interviews (3:30 PM-6 PM) & (4 PM-8:30 PM)

Thursday 11 September

* HSSSD Basketball (Years 7 & 8)

Friday 12 September

* Our Lady of Mercy Mass – Stadium 11:30AM-12:30PM

Monday 15 September

* Central Australia Trip departs

Tuesday 17 September

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Wednesday 18 September

* Year 11 Street Retreat

Thursday 19 September

* **Term 3 concludes**

Living with Teens



Date:

Tuesdays:

**29th July, 5th &
12th August 2014**

3 Week Program

Time:

9.30am –12 Noon

Venue:

Centacare,

**142 Timor Street,
Warrnambool, 3280**

Cost: FREE!!!

**RSVP: 22nd July
2014**

A 3 week program for parents of 10 - 15 year olds

Living with Teens will:

- Help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of early adolescence.
- Provide parents with information and skills for developing and maintaining trusting, positive relationships with their young adolescents.

During sessions parents have the opportunity to discuss and practice a range of strategies and ideas including:

- Adolescent development
- Connecting and communicating
- Negotiating boundaries
- Solving problems
- Setting effective limits
- Parental self care

(Sorry, no childcare available)

For enquiries and bookings

Contact Angela: 5559 3000 by: Tuesday 22nd July.





CHOCOLATE DRIVE 2014

To families who received a box of chocolates to sell.

It is very important that you arrange to make payment
before the week is over.

Final Date for Payment Friday 27th June

The cost of the box of chocolates is \$50

Payment can be made to us:

by cash

over the phone by credit card.

or

Deposit the money into the school bank account:
(see details below)

**Mercy Regional College
National Australia Bank
BSB Number 083 526
Account Number 5288 99931**

Thanking you.

Mrs. Lynn Wadley – Business Manager

NOTICES

Education Maintenance Allowance

For Semester 2.

The eligibility date is 14/07/2014.

Applications close
Friday 1/08/2014.

Forms are available from the
College office.

Parents in receipt of EMA in Period 1 are not
required to lodge a new application.

COBDEN AND DISTRICT NIGHT NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

Season Two 2014 will commence soon.

At the Cobden Tech School Stadium.

All past and new players are invited to forward their name or team to the committee
by the end of the upcoming school holidays (13th July) for inclusion in the draw.

Most senior teams include a mix of Adult and teenage players.

B Grade Juniors and

A Grade seniors play on Monday Nights (A Grade teams must nominate 2 umpires.)

A-Reserve seniors play on Wed. Nights (A Reserve teams must nominate 1 umpire)

DOOR FEES WILL BE DUE ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF PLAY AT

\$6 FOR EACH WEEK OF THE SEASON.

VNA Registration must be paid before taking the court for anyone
who has not done so already.

Senior (18 and over) \$65

Junior (Up to 18 years) \$45

Please phone with names and /or enquiries:

Neicy 55951557, Kylie 55951935, Alison 55952282