ISSUE 4-4

27th November, 2015

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 2015
“Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning”.

From the Principal

Today’s newsletter heralds the beginning of Advent, the season that leads traditionally into Christmas in the Church’s liturgical year. It is a season of preparation, of building excitement. And, in our world today, where joy and excitement is too often forgotten in the midst of fear, sadness and violence, the joy of Christmas is more welcome than ever.

*Come, long-expected Jesus.*
*Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours.*
*Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God’s own work for justice.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.*
*Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.*
*Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father’s joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.*
*Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.*

*I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail.*
*Amen.*

Mass of Thanksgiving and End of Year Awards
A final reminder to all Mercy parents, students, families and friends that the College’s Thanksgiving Mass and End of Year Awards is being held next Thursday 3rd December at St Thomas’ Parish Church, Terang starting at 7.00pm. Mass and awards will be followed by supper and tea/coffee. We would really like to see as many of our College community in attendance to celebrate the school year and in anticipation of the summer holidays to come.
Graduation Mass and Dinner
Last Thursday, I was privileged to join our graduating class of 2015, their parents and teachers at St Patrick’s Church, Camperdown and afterwards at the Five Star Function Centre. Not surprisingly it was an excellent night with our graduands looking splendid and their parents and teachers looking proudly on.

Congratulations to those who received special awards and to Lesa Thornton, Jo Saunders, Lachie Lee, Fr. Matthew, Chris Grant and Stacey Hillman on their roles in coordinating and leading the evening.

Below is the list of award recipients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD WINNERS</th>
<th>RECIPIENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corangamite Citizenship Award</td>
<td>Christopher Barks</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADF Leadership &amp; Teamwork Award</td>
<td>Darcy Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caltex Allrounder</td>
<td>Ella Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>VET Excellence Award</td>
<td>Brady Green</td>
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<td>Mercy Arts Prize Award</td>
<td>Georgina Quinn</td>
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<td>Principal’s Award</td>
<td>Jesse Johnson</td>
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<td><strong>Core of Mercy Awards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Award</td>
<td>Amy McKenzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusiveness Award</td>
<td>Stephanie Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Award</td>
<td>Hannah Moloney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Award</td>
<td>Darcy Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice and Mercy Award</td>
<td>Martinique McKenzie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellence and Achievement Award</td>
<td>Mia Cain</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>College Captains Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Haylee Davis and</td>
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<td>Joshua Rowan</td>
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Jesse Johnson receiving the Principal’s Award
Mass of Thanksgiving and End of Year Awards
Thursday 3rd December

We are asking parents
Of Years 7-9 students
To provide a plate of supper
to share on the night.

If you can help please ring the College office
and let us know by
Monday 30th November

Phone
Noorat – 5592 5353
or
Camperdown 5593 2011

Donations of food can be taken to:
• School Canteen in Camperdown
• O’Keeffe Campus, Noorat

ALSO
HELPERS REQUIRED
To set-up or serve supper on the night
If you can help, please ring us.
**Visit by Hall’s Creek Clontarf Academy**
Over the next four days, Mercy Regional College will host a number of students and staff from the Halls Creek Clontarf Academy; their visit reflects the growing relationship Mercy Regional College enjoys with the people of Halls Creek and the Kimberley. The Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal men and by doing so equips them to participate meaningfully in society. The visit has been coordinated by our Head of O’Keeffe Campus, Mr James Castles, and I encourage any students and staff who would like to be involved to do so.

**Royal Commission**
As you would be aware the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommenced hearings in Melbourne on November 24. It is expected to last approximately four weeks with the second half of the hearings to be held in Ballarat.

In a letter to our church and school communities in January Bishop Paul wrote:

“That the Royal Commission will examine the damaging impacts which the abuse has inflicted on the social fabric of our community and the families within the community.”

We are very supportive of the Royal Commission and all Church organisations are co-operating with it fully to ensure that the victims and survivors may have their voices heard. This may be a difficult time for all involved. Contact numbers if anyone in our community wishes to seek support are Access on 1800 222 125 or Relationships Australia on 1800 052 674.

**2015 Car Raffle**
Winner of the 2015 Car Raffle 1st Prize.

**Congratulations**
Special congratulations to our increasingly famous staff member, Mrs. Jo Beard, who on Tuesday night was elected Mayor of the Corangamite Shire for the next twelve months. She will be an outstanding role model in our local communities.

**Student Activities**
The last week or so of the school year promises to be busy with end of year examinations, the Clontarf visit, Student Leadership camp, Transition programs at most levels as well as a range of social justice and end of year celebrations. Students are encouraged to enjoy all aspects of this time as they move towards the Christmas and January break.

Yours in Mercy,

**UNIFORM SHOP NOTICE**
Last call out for Rugby Jumper orders so they can arrive by mid Term 1 ready for winter. Please come to the Uniform shop Tuesday or Thursday lunchtime to get size fitted and order form.

VCE Jumpers.
Any Year 10 students needing a NAVY VCE Jumper for next year please go to the uniform shop Tuesday or Thursday for size fitting and order form.

Principal Dr. Darren Egberts presenting the keys to the winner of the car Greta Arundell of Melbourne with her grandfather Tony.
Year 8 Ride2Rescue for Childwise Cambodia
Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders

As a follow up to the Year 8 “Justice” Retreat in June, there will be a special day to support ride2rescue - with a team based bike ride form Noorat to Terang and back for our Year 8 students. This ride will take place on the bike/walking track which is separated from the road and safe for our students to ride. THIS IS NOT A RACE, but a method of raising funds for charity with students gaining sponsorship for their ride.

Daniel Sehussen, our guest speaker at the retreat, supports the charity Childwise Cambodia via his ride2rescue campaign. The funds may be used to fund bicycles and school equipment including sports equipment and stationery. Childwise Cambodia supports education programs for children in dire situations for whom the walk to school is not always safe.

Our funds will go directly to the Bamboo Shoot Project which includes:

1. Providing public information about Children’s rights and Child safety issues
2. Providing books for two primary school libraries in a remote area
3. Providing stationery and furniture items for two primary schools in a remote area

At the retreat in June the students decided that to complete a ride2rescue team event would be a suitable way to raise funds for further educational facilities to be provided for children in need.

The students will ride in teams of two - one from Noorat to Terang and another from Terang back to the Noorat Community centre where all students will complete the afternoon with fun activities and a BBQ lunch. Safety is of course paramount and we will have staff along the way to supervise including a number of staff on motorcycles.

Our aim is to raise $1000 for this worthy cause. For more information about Child Wise Cambodia please follow the following link: http://www.childwisecambodia.org/ or http://ride2rescue.org/

Casterton Secondary College Interschool Showjumping Championships 2015

On Friday 13th November, 2015 Casterton Secondary College held its 7th Interschool Showjumping Championships. With 77 entries, some from as far as Warrnambool and Portland in Victoria, and Mount Gambier and Keith in South Australia. A good day was had by all with most staying on for the weekend and attending the Casterton Show. Placings went to 6th place with a Saddle Blanket and Champion Rosette given to the highest place and overall place Rosettes were given out to placings up to 6th place. Results for Mercy Regional College.

Group 6 Grand Prix: 1st Erika Grant
Group 6 Overall: 1st Erika Grant

Sports Report
Matt Harkin

Year 7 Table tennis State Finals
Our year 7 boys and girls have had a terrific year this year and culminated with them competed in the state finals last week at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Our students did very well but came up against some very stiff competition at the event which meant they didn’t quite make the finals.

Team members included:
Boys – Jack Hands, Callum McSween, Jack Toose, Baily Kavanagh.

Girls -Marni Kerr, Haley Wason, Grace Moloney and Amy Vogels.

Summer Sports
Thursday 26th November saw our last sporting event for the year with our summer sports taking place. Students from Year 7 and 8 braved wind and hail to compete marvelously across a range of sports. Girl’s football, mixed cricket, mixed bowls, golf, soccer, tennis and volleyball were the sports that are students demonstrated their skills and competed with a terrific sense of fair play. Thanks to the staff who went along and the parents who came to watch.
Monday 30 November
* Year 9 Exams, Year 10 Exams

Tuesday 1 December
* 2016 Year 7 Transition Day
  (No classes for current Year 7 students)
* 2016 Year 9 Transition Day

Thursday 3 December
* Mass of Thanksgiving and Awards Night
  (St. Thomas’ Church, Terang @ 7:00pm)

Friday 4 December
* Years 7 – 10 Students Conclude

Thursday 10 December
* Teaching Staff Conclude

2016 School Year Information

2016 BOOKLISTS
Booklists have been distributed to students Complete and return according to the instructions on the front cover. Booklists are to be returned to the College office before Friday 4th December, 2015. Please do not send any payment with the booklist. Payment is to be made to Warrnambool Books only. They will mail you a payment advice.

BOOK PARCEL COLLECTION DATE
Thursday 28th January, 2016, 10am to 3pm. A number of options for paying for your booklist are available, check the front page of the booklist.

UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform is now located in the house on the corner of Dimora Avenue and Walls Street Camperdown (see photo below). The manager is Nicola Fletcher and she can be contacted on (0481 311 701). If you intend purchasing a new uniform for your child, we strongly recommend that you bring them into the uniform shop to be fitted for their summer uniform requirements.

MRC UNIFORM
All students are to be in full summer school uniform at the start of Term 1, 2016.

If you are interested in purchasing second-hand uniform or text books, there are two avenues available to parents.

- “Mercy Regional College Buy/Sell/ Swap 2nd Hand Books and Uniform” is a Facebook page which was set-up by the parents of the College.
- Sustainable School Shop can help parents buy or sell items through their website www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
The uniform shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday during school weeks from 12 – 2pm. As well as the following times listed below for December, January and February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 1st December, 12 – 2:00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, 3rd December, 12 – 2:00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 8th December, 12 – 2:00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, 10th December, 12 – 2:00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 15th December, 12 – 2:00pm</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>JANUARY 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 21st January, 10am – 2pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 27th January, 10am – 2pm</td>
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<td>Thursday, 28th January, 10am – 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>The uniform shop is open during the year twice a week in the school terms on the following days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday, 12 – 2:00pm</td>
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STUDENT DIARY
Student diaries will be distributed to students on the first day of school.

OFFICE HOURS 2016
The College office will open on Wednesday 27th January for normal hours of operation from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 - 2015
The first day of school for all students will be Monday 1st February, 2016.
Amazing Race for Mental Health

As part of Mental Health week, we have secured a grant from MI Fellowship to run an activity with our Year 8 students to promote mental health and wellbeing.

On Friday 4th December all year 8 students will be working in teams to go through an Amazing Race around Camperdown.

We aim to promote a safe, fun and inclusive morning for all. The Amazing Race will incorporate mental health messages and will identify key places within the community where students could go to for help. Students will be required to work together in small groups, thus building self-confidence and resilience skills.

At the conclusion of the Amazing Race, students will come together and have morning tea with a discussion on the importance of looking after your mental health and wellbeing.

We would like to thank the following organisations and businesses for their support of this day;

- MI Fellowship
- South West Healthcare – Manifold Place, Camperdown Hospital and Mental Health Services
- Corangamite Shire
- Camperdown Psychology
- Scott Street Doctors Clinic
- Camperdown Fitness
- Headspace

As part of Mental Health week, Beyond Blue urges all Australians to make their mental health a priority. Think about the things that contribute to you feeling positive, healthy and fulfilled — and lifestyle choices or activities that can add happiness and satisfaction to your social and emotional wellbeing.

Look around at your family, friends and colleagues today and if you think someone is having a tough time, we urge you to reach out. Similarly, if you're struggling there is no shame in asking for support — it shows great courage.
NOTICES

Camperdown Lakers Squad Trainings and Tryouts

Hi All,

We are very excited to be starting Basketball Squads for U12s through to U18s. The trainings and selections will be running the next 3 Sundays for 2 hours per group. All kids are welcome and strongly encouraged to come along. The cost of the sessions will be $10 each to cover the cost of the stadium and also coach Dean Brebner who will be running all the sessions. The age groups are listed below (please attend the session according to your child’s year of birth; the age groups are a little bizarre but just run with it!)

Sessions will be on Sunday 22nd November, Sunday 29th November and Sunday 6th December at the stadium with the times listed below:

- **U14 Girls & Boys 9.00am-11.00am** (Born 2003-2004)
- **U12 Girls & Boys 11.00am-1.00pm** (Born 2005-2006 & after)
- **U16 Girls & Boys 1.00pm-3.00pm** (Born 2001-2002)
- **U18 Girls & Boys 3.00pm-5.00pm** (Born 1999-2000)

As this is our first time running squads in all age groups we really would encourage all children to come along, the sessions themselves will be hugely beneficial regardless of whether or not your child is looking to be part of the squad team.

In order to be eligible to represent the Camperdown Amateur Basketball Association (CABA) children must play in our competition and be available to attend ongoing training sessions and tournaments in the New Year. More information regarding this will be given out at the first training this week. If your child is keen but you are unable to attend one of the sessions, please let me know.

We will also need parents to be involved as Team Managers and Coaches so if you are keen to help out in these areas please let us know.

We are very excited to get these squads up and running, it will be a wonderful thing for our kids and the basketball association as a whole so hope to see you all there.

Cheers,
Tash Swayn
Ph: 0419 541 314
On behalf of the CABA Committee

Our U16 Girls Squad
COBDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Invites all new swimmers to a COME AND TRY NIGHT at the Cobden pool on MONDAY 30th OF November from 5.30pm until 6.30pm
With Head Coach David Robertson

Swimming Club runs from Monday through to Thursday 5.30 to 6.30pm.
Ability to swim one lap is recommended.
Primary school age and up are welcome

Swimming Club also recommences on this night for returning members. Registration forms and season calendar for the 2015-2016 season will be available.

Feel free to contact our very welcoming committee members if you require any further information:

PRESIDENT: Matthew Coverdale 0417650026