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 2016
“Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all”.

My prayer this week reflects on the words of the prophet Jeremiah who has featured in scripture readings of recent Sunday masses. As a prophet, Jeremiah set out to challenge the accepted practices of the time and subvert society’s structures to seek mercy and justice. This prayer challenges us to seek a closer relationship or openness to our God:

Loving God,
you have loved us from our first moments,
and your love has enriched our lives each day.
Bless us in our meeting together,
in the understanding of how to live your word,
and how to take it out into the world.
Through our words and actions,
may others come to know your love,
and the whole world begin to sing your praises.
Amen.

Opening of Stage 1 Buildings
Last Friday saw a host of special guests join students, staff, parents and members of the broader Mercy Regional College community for the Opening and Blessing of our Master Plan Stage 1 Buildings. It was a privilege for the College to host Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat who officially blessed and opened our new Science laboratories, senior classrooms and other refurbished learning spaces. Bishop Paul was joined by Ms. Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education Ballarat, Mr. Christopher Houlihan, Chief Executive of Mercy Education Limited, Mrs. Jo Beard, Mayor of Corangamite Shire, our College chaplains Fr. Matthew Thomas and Fr. Gerry Prunty as well as principals from other Ballarat diocesan secondary schools, Hampden Catholic Network schools and local government secondary schools.

The opening was hosted by our College Captains Indi Kent and Austin Evans; the enthusiasm and pride they demonstrated as well as that by fellow Year 12 student, Lucretia Bell, was a definite highlight of the day.

Another highlight was the presence of a number of community members whose connections to Mercy goes back more than 40 years; their delight in seeing the growth of the College provided wonderful memories for all.

Thanks to the large number of people who contributed to the day in a range of ways but especially to the College maintenance staff for providing an outstanding site for the opening, Mrs. Jo Saunders and Fr. Matthew for assistance in preparing the blessing liturgy, and Mrs. Annette Price, Ms. Lyn Davies and her Hospitality class for the luncheon.
**Camps, Retreats and Work Experience**

It has been quite settled around both campuses over the last two weeks with focus returning to classrooms and the core challenges of learning and teaching. However, it is important that we celebrate the successful completion of the variety of activities that commenced our school year – Year 7 Camp, Year 12 Retreat, Year 10 Work Experience, Year 11 Melbourne Camp as well as the Swimming and Athletics carnivals. Each of these activities provides breadth to the education of your children and is integral to the holistic education provided at Mercy Regional College. Special thanks to the staff responsible for leading and running these activities, their success is only possible through the professionalism of the teachers and other staff who are there.

**Mercy Regional College Presentation Ball**

As you read this, our Year 11 students will be a mixture of nerves and excitement with the College’s Presentation Ball on this evening at Glenormiston College. I would like to wish all involved the very best for the evening and hope that the night reflects all the hard work you have undertaken over the last few months.

**Mercy Regional College Parents Consultative Group**

Over the last three years, I have been privileged to work with a group of parents from across our region in the Mercy Parents Consultative Group. This group comes together once a term to provide advice to the Principal on issues currently under discussion in school, to offer suggestions on areas of improvement and to continue to build the fundamental partnership between parents, families and school.

Our first meeting for 2016 is being held on Monday 21st March in the McAuley Campus Board Room from 5.00 – 6.30pm. The group is open to any Mercy parents and I would love to see a number of parents representing students new to Mercy join us. Please contact me at the College if you would like further details or just turn up on the night.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

With the end of this short first term less than three weeks away, please note in your calendars that our first set of Parent Teacher Interviews are being held on Wednesday 23rd March (4.00 – 8.30pm) and Thursday 24th March (9.00am – 1.00pm). They are a very important opportunity for you, your children and teachers to meet to discuss how the year has started and opportunities for improvement. Arrangements for booking appointment times are as they have been in the last few years electronically through the College’s Parent Access Module – please contact Mr. Chris Grant or College Reception if you are in need of assistance with this. If a teacher you would like to see if fully booked or on leave, please feel free to ask them to ring you or make another appointment to talk about your son or daughter’s progress.

**Care with Electronic Devices**

With all students at Mercy having a personal electronic device (either an iPad or MacBook), it is timely to remind both students and parents of the need to ensure that these devices are transported where possible in protective covers and cases. Unfortunately accidents can occur and breakages are possible but these are much less likely if a protective case is used. Our local IT provider, Tower Computers stocks a range of appropriate cases as do other electrical retailers.

**Long Service Leave**

As many in the College community will know, I will be away for all of the upcoming second school term as my family and I travel around Australia. In the next College newsletter, I will outline the arrangements that have been made for leadership of the school in my absence.

**Student Achievements**

The past couple of weeks have seen a number of student events and achievements of note:

- Special congratulations to all students who participated in Tuesday’s Athletics Carnival; it was a great day with colourful and enthusiastic students determined to do their best for their house. Well done to those in Tindley House who successfully took home the house competition after many years of domination by Frayne House.
- Congratulations to our Year 12 students Austin Evans and Lily Lourey who represented Mercy with some distinction at last Sunday’s district finals of the Lions Youth of the Year competition.
- Well done to all students who competed in last week’s HSSSA Swimming competition in Terang with Mercy successful in many events.

**Reminder**

Wednesday 9th March is school photo day with photos commencing at the McAuley Campus followed by the O’Keeffe Campus in the afternoon. Students are reminded that they should be well presented in their full summer uniform on the day. Parents are encouraged to refer to the student diary if you have any questions regarding what is correct summer uniform.

Yours in Mercy,

DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL
From the Director of RE
Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders

Caritas fundraising 2016

Our Lenten fundraising efforts continue for Caritas across the school. Over the coming few week’s students are encouraged to raise funds for CARITAS as part of Project Compassion 2016. The theme this year is ‘Learning more creating change’.

Icy-pole selling and cake stalls are underway at the O’Keeffe Campus and middle school students are organising their annual coin line again this year. For more information on Project Compassion or CARITAS please visit the Caritas Australia website at www.caritas.org.au

Shave for a cure

It is once again Crazy hair and shave for a cure day on Thursday March 10th. Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation to have crazy hair styles or coloured hair. Students may have their hair spray painted for just $1 on the day at recess. Lunch time at both campuses will see some very brave students have their heads shaved as part of our ‘Mercy Saves’ Team.

At the O’Keeffe Campus: Rory Coverdale will lose her locks.
At the McAuley Campus: Michael Rowan and Jordyn Hickey will have their heads shaved in order to support the Leukaemia Foundation.

Please visit our team page on the SHAVE FOR A CURE WEBSITE and feel free to donate or leave a message of support. We encourage students to bring money on the day to support the three incredibly brave students who are going to sacrifice a great deal for the cause of research into blood cancers.

Bibles Please!

Every student is required to have their Bible for class in Religious Education at school. If your child has their Bible at home rather than school, please encourage them to bring it to school. This is particularly important for the Year 9 – 12 students.

Although the Bibles are not always used each lesson they are often needed and it is disappointing when students do not have them and are not prepared for class. The Bibles have been on the booklist each year and therefore are required to be available when needed.
Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has named 2016 as the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to contemplate the way we give and receive Mercy in our daily lives.

In our units of work within Religious Education this year we will be focusing on Mercy as a theme close to our heart and our school name.

Year 7s will begin Term 2 with a special unit on Mercy and making a difference in our world, whilst the Year 10 classes will be focusing on Mercy for the fragile environment of our planet.

Our Year 12 classes will include the theme of Mercy in their unit on Refugees in term three.

Year 11s will be incorporating activities for the Year of Mercy into their ‘Called to Action’ unit and Year 8s in their work on ‘A Just world’.

Year 9s will focus on Mercy in their work on ‘The Eucharist.

Cambodia Immersion Trip March 19- 30, 2016

In just two weeks, 19 students will be heading to Cambodia to be immersed in the culture and history of this beautiful country. They will also be of service to others. Our students will be visiting schools and helping teenagers to learn English skills.

This great experience is almost here after two years of planning and preparation. Our itinerary is below and the students are very excited to be supporting the SOLS 24/7 schools as well as the Jesuit Retreat Centre in Siem Reap which is also a place of solace for refugee families and those with need for support as victims of landmines. Sr. Denise Coghlan (An Australian Sister of Mercy) runs the Retreat Centre and will be a wealth of information and support for our team.

After our experiences with the Cambodian Community we will reflect on how we might best be able to support the schools in the future. Our aim is to create global partnerships with the schools in Cambodia and consider supporting their educational program and facilities in a more concrete way in the future.

The 19 students have met over many lunch times and also had after school meetings to prepare for the trip. Now it is time to pack! It will be a very special experience to have Easter in Siem Reap and share the Vigil Mass on Easter Saturday night with the local Community.

Itinerary is as follows:

March 19th arrive in Siem Reap at Jesuit Reflection Centre.
March 20th Angkor Wat (City of Temples).
March 21st Cultural and historical adventures around Siem Reap including museums.
March 22nd 26th Kampong Thom SOLS 247 School.
March 26th Kampong Thom to Siem Reap Easter Mass.
March 27th Siem Reap rest and reflection on Easter Sunday and Khmer cooking class in the evening.
March 28th Siem Reap Life and Change Sewing program and Siem Reap SOLS 247 School.
March 29th Siem Reap back to Melbourne.
Work Experience Reports

The following reflections are from Mercy students who participated in Work Experience this year.

For my Work Experience I went to Ace Radio in Colac. While I was there I got to watch them broadcast ads and help them write them, and then I also got to go out with the sales teams seeing companies about putting their businesses on air. The people were really nice and I had a good week.

Brooke Hallyburton

For my work experience I went to Red Door Dance and Theatre Company, in Colac. I chose to do work experience here because I was taking part in their production of Legally Blonde: The Musical. The first thing I did was watch them work on the lighting plot and work out what lights should go on what queue. From Wednesday onwards I would help set up the side stage props and then I would start getting ready for the show. I had such an amazing time and I miss everybody I worked with.

Laura Hickey

For my work experience I went to Goodstart Early Learning Childcare Centre in Warrnambool. I worked in the baby and toddler room. Some of the things I done included playing with the children, helping prepare their food and getting them ready for nap time. Overall, I really enjoyed my work experience.

Caitlin Gass

Work experience was very enjoyable I did it at Benallacks Sports Camperdown from 9am till 4pm. I helped serve customers, stack shelves and use the cash register. I was working with Andrew and Michelle from Monday thru to Friday.

Nicholas Koroneos

Jesse Poustie

For work experience I went to Jetsonian Constructions in Ballarat. I worked with Scott Baker and his crew; Joe, Jack, Sam and Rex. They were all lads. We worked on a house in Alfredton fitting cupboards, shelving, doors, cladding and skirting boards. We also went to Redan to start framing on a new house. I enjoyed working with the boys as they were all good fun.

Ben Toose

All year 10s did a week of Work Experience at a business of their choice. We chose to go to St Patricks Primary School and the Camperdown Veterinary Centre. At the vets Casey got to watch them perform different surgeries on animals. At St Patricks Eliza helped in the classrooms with the children. It was a great experience.

By Casey White and Eliza Johnstone

For work experience I went to Two Tarts Baking, it was a great experience in the cooking industry. I got to bake a few cakes, make tart shells and yoyos. I also did a lot of cleaning. I had a great time but I am not sure if that is what I want to pursue in the future for my career.

Libby Moloney

My work Experience was really good at the childcare centre at Dennington it was a good experience to do instead of school for a week the people who I worked with were really good. The kids I looked after were very cute. Doing it in Warrnambool was good to experience a different area and meeting new people and seeing how it all works if I had the option to do it again I would. I also had to feed some of the kids and put them to bed. I really enjoyed it. Great experience.

Kaitlyn O’Neil

Work experience was very enjoyable, I did my works experience at Hately’s custom kitchens I worked form 7am till 3pm, I learnt how to make draws and how to install a laundry. I would consider this trade after I leave school.

Harrison Wickenton
I Scott Carlin was doing bricklaying and concreting with R & J Concreating in Terang/Noorat for my work experience. It was a lot better than doing school for the week it gets you outside and doing some hands on things and learning the life you may do when you have left or finished school.

Scott Carlin

I went to Semken landscaping in Ringwood for my work experience where I did landscape on my bosses place and others around the area. I did maintenance and learnt how to build a stone wall. I started at 6.30am and finished around 4pm.

Sam Bond

On work experience I went to Scanlon’s dairy centre. I assisted in inserting an automatic teat sprayer. I also went on deliveries delivering farm products and also collecting them over all it was a great week off school and learn a few new tricks.

Jordan Cavarsan

On work experience I worked at the Terang Mortlake Health Service (Terang Hospital). I assisted with tasks on the ward as well as being able to experience the procedures in Theatre (surgery). Over all it was a great experience.

Josh Watt

For work experience I worked at the Timboon Hospital with the Physiotherapist, Dietitian, and Health Promoter and Physiotherapy gym instructor. Although I was nervous at the start, everyone was very welcoming. My favourite part of work experience was meeting and getting to know so many new people.

Gabby Beaver

Lions Youth of the Year 2016
Mrs. Lesa Thornton

Over the past two weeks we have had a number of students competing in the Library for the “Youth of the Year Public Speaking” competitions held in Camperdown and Terang. This is an excellent opportunity for our young people to speak about an issue upon which they are passionate and then speak about unseen topics with not time for preparation.

This year we were admirably represented by our school captains Austin Evans and Indira Kent in Camperdown and Year 12 students Lily Lourey and Lucretia Bell at Terang. All four students spoke exceptionally well as did the competitors from Camperdown College and Terang College.

We had success at both venues with Austin winning our Camperdown competition and Lily the Terang competition. Both students went on to the next stage which was held in Camperdown last Sunday. Again both students did MRC proud with speeches however were runners up to the eventual stage winner from Warrnambool.

I would like to thank all four students, their families, friends and staff that assisted in encouraging the in this competition. It is never easy to speak in front of a crowd but it is a valuable skill. I know all our representatives have benefitted from participating in this program.
Sports Report
Mr. Matt Harkin and Darcy Collins

The 1st March played host to yet again another great Mercy Sports Carnival. On a hot day it was great to see so much enthusiasm and participation, across all the events, which definitely had a huge impact on the overall house winners. At the end of the day Tindley were the victors edging out Frayne by 70 points.

Results were as follows
Tindley - 2908
Frayne - 2838
Markey - 2635
Ryan – 2364

Each age group had some terrific athletes across all the Jumping, track and throwing events meaning that not just the fastest or the strongest were in contention to win the age champions.

The age Champions were as following;

U/13  Nicole Bath & Henry Kenna
U/14  Amy Vogels & Lachlan Gass
U/15  Chelsea Baker & Jia Anderson & Isaac Kenna
U/16  Lily Hose & Scott Carlin
U/17  Sarsha Anderson & Zac Green
U/20  Elly Harris & Lachlan Bone

Thanks heaps to all the students, staff and parents that made the day run smoothly. We are very happy with how the overall day went especially in the hot conditions.

During the past fortnight we have also had students compete in the H.S.S.S.D Swimming in Terang. It was great day in which all students that represented Mercy being very competitive against the other schools. The day saw Mercy receive both the Intermediate and Senior shields, and also a couple of brilliant individual efforts saw Brianna Thompson and Hannah Justin take home their respective age group championships.
**Term 1 - 2016 Dates**

**Wednesday 9th March**
- School Photos

**Thursday 10th March**
- Shave for a Cure & Crazy Hair Day

**Monday 14th March**
- [Labour Day holiday – no school](#)

**Wednesday 16th March**
- Year 8 Princetown Camp for 3 days till Friday.

**Wednesday 23rd March**
- GWR Swimming
- Term 1 concludes for students
- Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00pm – 8:00pm)

**Thursday 24th March**
- Parent Teacher Interviews (9:00am – 1:00pm)
- Cambodia Immersion Trip commences until Tuesday 29th March.

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**Camperdown Football Netball Club Inc**

**Junior Football Training Commencement Dates:**

**Under 12’s, Thursday the 17th March @ 4:30pm**

**Under 14’s, Tuesday and Thursday @ 4:30pm – Starting 8th March**

**Under 16’s, Tuesday and Thursday @ 4:30pm – Starting 8th March**

**Where:** Camperdown Football Grounds

**All Welcome – Current or New Players**

**Any further details please contact:**

**James Lane 0419 887 152**
The St Patrick’s, Mercy Regional and Camperdown College

MT LEURA FUN RUN/WALK

Open to all members of the community

Come and have a run or take a leisurely walk up Mt Leura Rd, (approx 1.8 kms) or tackle the longer course (approx 4kms) with some off-road sections.

Medals and prizes for age category winners.

DATE: Friday 18th March, 2016

TIME: 5.00pm onwards for registrations

6.05pm start long course, 6.15pm short course

COST: $5 adults, $3 children.

REGISTRATION: forms available from the St Patrick’s, Mercy and Camperdown College offices, or on race day at the showgrounds entrance.

Enquiries: Kathy Hallyburton 0419 671 300,
or Claire Kempton 0402332963

Sausage sizzle Giveway

St Patrick’s, Mercy and Camperdown College would like to gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their support: Corangamite Shire, Sendge Bank, Wannon Water, Woolworths and Pollards Electrical.

Proceeds from this event will be donated towards the new Camperdown Community House.
"DECEIVE YOUR OWN DESTINY"

Keynote presentation from Nathan Hulls

Thursday 17 March 2016
10:30am — 11:30am
Lighthouse Theatre Warrnambool
Open to secondary school students from Year 9 — 12.

Nathan's own story of being born with a disability, facing bullying and overcoming adversity to live the life of his dreams - is an inspiring story for students.

This is the story of a boy born with a disability, the first known case in Australia, facing the future of being different, but desperately wanting just to fit in. Facing teasing, bullying and being labelled. Going through the grief of losing his mum at a young age, but rising above the 'stuff' to choose his own adventure, to create his own future - to decide his own destiny.

Nathan understands what it feels like to try to form and discover your own identity and purpose. He has learned that life's battles can be won, armed with a sense of humor and an optimistic attitude. Sharing his struggles, Nathan encourages young people to view their lives through a new lens. This empowering story of triumph encourages teens to understand that our destiny is not determined by the 'stuff' that happens to us. the 'stuff' which is out of our control. But our destiny is determined by the decisions we make in response to those things.

TOPICS COVERED IN DECIDE YOUR OWN DESTINY INCLUDE:
- Stuff happens - Deal With It!
- Decisions Create Destiny
- You Can't Change The Past - You Can Create The Future
- The Curse of Comparison
- The Blame Game
- Write Your Own Story
- The Superhero In You
- Seeds of Greatness

RSVP attendance numbers to RSVP@swtafe.vic.edu.au
or phone Taylia Craw on 5564 8859
CORANGAMITE SHIRE
YOUTH COUNCIL

RAINBOW
RUN

APRIL 1ST 2016
3.00PM TO 8.00PM
EMU CREEK PONY CLUB, TERANG
Cnr Strong and Escourt Streets

FUN · LIVE MUSIC · BBQ

To register: www.trybooking.com/181889
or visit Shire Offices

Individual: $5 ($10 with t-shirt)
Family: $10 ($25 with t-shirt)

One & All
Inclusive event

This event is drug, alcohol and smoke free

More info: Shire 5593 1700, Verity 0400 380 402

Facebook
Secondary School Holiday Program
March/April 2016

Got anything planned for these holidays? Why not head along to one of the Corangamite Shire holiday activities. Great day out, plenty of things to do!!

Adventure Park, Geelong
Tuesday 29 March
Cost: $30 per child & $45 per adult - includes return bus, park entry and unlimited rides
BYO bathers and towel and lunch and money for McDonalds

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<td>Cobden Civic Centre</td>
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Go Surf & Shopping, Warrnambool
Tuesday 5 April
Cost: $35 per child & $45 per adult - includes return bus trip, 2hr Surf lesson, board and wetsuit hire
BYO bathers and towel and lunch and money

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Bookings are essential for all holiday program activities. Please call 5593 7100 to book your place in advance. For further information please contact Catherine O’Flynn.

***The Corangamite Shire reserves the right to alter or cancel any holiday program activity at any time. Activities run subject to bookings***

Oddball
Wednesday 30 March
Screening from 1.30 pm
Food & drink available for purchase

Free Films
at Camperdown Theatre Royal
doors open at 1 pm

Inside Out
Wednesday 6 April
Screening from 1.30 pm
Food & drink available for purchase

Corangamite Shire, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 3260
Ph. 03 5593 7100, Fax. 03 5593 2695, Email. shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au
www.corangamite.vic.gov.au