ISSUE 2-3

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”.

This week’s prayer is the one read by Mrs Jo Saunders on Open Night earlier this week
God our Father,
In saying that you have written
Our names on the palm of Your hands,
You are telling us that each person
Is unique and special to you.
We pray for our regional community in good times and in difficult times.
May we always be prepared to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes, show compassion to all
And develop and put to good use
The qualities we hold in trust from you.
Amen.

Mercy Feast Day Mass
Our College Feast Day is 24th May. All families are welcome to join us in the stadium as we celebrate the origins of our school and all Mercy Regional College has accomplished over the last 43 Years.

Farmers Barn Dance
In support of our Dairy Farmers, the Farmers Barn Dance is now a FREE event. Occurring next Friday, 27th May from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, starring the Jukebox Cowboys featuring Peter Daffy and backed by Tuniversal. DJ Chris Barks will be there and the night will be called by Mick Saunders.

This event is proudly sponsored and brought to you by St Patrick’s Primary School and Mercy Regional College. Please see the advertisement and a letter that Mr. Mick McKenzie, Principal of St Patrick's and I have sent out to parents, following on from my newsletter article.

Open Night & College Tours
On a wintery Monday evening we welcomed many prospective Year 7, 2017 students and their families to the annual Open Night and Information sessions. It was fantastic to see the number of families who attended the night and could get a glimpse of what a Mercy Regional College education could look like.

Thank you to all student tour guides and members of staff that assisted on the night to make it a success. A special mention to our MC for the night Luke Francis, and student speakers Krystal Baker and Charlie Scanlon who all did an exceptional job. Tours of the McAuley Senior campus (Years 9-12), will run on the following times up until the close of enrolment applications on Friday 17th June, 2016 for new and prospective families.
- Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00am to 11:00am
- Wednesday & Thursday: 3:00pm to 4:00pm

If you would like to join us for a tour of the McAuley campus, please come along.
HCSN Combined Boards’ Dinner

Next Wednesday, the board members of the four Hampden Catholic Schools’ Network (Mercy Regional College, St. Colman’s, St. Thomas’ and St. Patrick’s) will come together to celebrate Catholic Education Week. The evening is a great opportunity to recognise the valuable links that exist within and across our four schools as part of Catholic Education Week. Our guest speaker is Sarah Wall, creator of Jeanieboy, has played netball at the elite level for 11 years, is a qualified teacher, studying Exercise Science and completing her Bachelor of Education at Melbourne University.

Visit from the ladies at David Newman Centre

On Wednesday 18th May we hosted ladies from the David Newman Center for morning tea in our Library. They were joined by our Year 10 Christian Outreach students who currently visit the center on a weekly basis. Following this, we gave a tour of the College and in particular, our Stage 1 new Science and Year 12 classrooms. The ladies were astounded with the fantastic facilities on offer to our students, and were reminiscing of the vast amount of changes that have occurred since they attended school themselves. It was fantastic to have members of the community visit our College. A full article and photos of the visit is listed later in this newsletter.

Student Activities

Although the weather has changed, the number of activities across a range of school areas has not diminished:

- Students were involved in a House Colours day on Thursday where many events were held to raise money for Vinnies Assist a Student Program. These included giant twister, tug of war, and sock wrestling.
- Students from Years 7 & 8 participated in the Australian Geography Competition.
- Year 11 students participated in the Mock Interview sessions where they were interviewed by business men and women from the local community.
- Middle school Students were involved in the ‘Bullying’ Brainstorms production.
- Year 9 students completed the last session of their BRICKS program (Building Resilience in Corangamite Kids).
- Year 7 and 9 students completed the Annual NAPLAN testing program.
- Clint Miller revisited the college to give a report back to parents on the Cambodia trip.
- Intermediate and Senior Students participated in the HSSSA Netball

Yours in Mercy,

MR. CHRIS GRANT
ACTING PRINCIPAL

Social Justice Report
Mrs. Jo-Anne Saunders

House Colours Fun Day

On Thursday May 19th at both O'Keeffe and McAuley campuses of Mercy Regional College there was a HOUSE COLOURS DAY raising over $650. The day was held to raise funds for the Vinnies “Assist a student program”. Each house FRAYNE, MARKEY, RYAN AND TINDLEY raised enough money to support two students for a year’s education in partnership with Vinnies and their international program.

At McAuley Campus there was a great deal of fun had with TWISTER and at lunch time a great Tug-of-War between house members. The staff were also involved and had lots of laughs and fun.

At the O'Keeffe Campus the students gathered to watch some students battle it out on the mats in a sock wrestling competition and at lunch time when the clouds parted there was time for some House v House basketball games 2 on 2.
19/5/2016

Dear Parents,

We are sure you are all aware of the devastating news given to our dairy farmers over the past few weeks and our thoughts and prayers are certainly with them and anyone else who is struggling at the moment.

The reality is that we all live in a dairying area and the livelihoods of many of the parents in our school communities rely on this industry either directly or indirectly. If the farmers struggle so does everyone else.

After reflection and consultation we have decided to remove any costs associated with the upcoming barn dance on Friday 27th May. (see the flier attached)

Originally we had $30 a family and $15 an adult & $10 a child set for this event however it will now be a free event and hopefully an event that all families in our community can come to and have a good old fashioned social night out. We hope it is a night spent catching up with friends and neighbours, a night for a dance or two and a night where you can bring your family along and have a wonderful family evening. We hope that you please consider coming along and being a part of this event and supporting, our schools, our community and our farmers.

It is also important for you to know that we are here to support our school families and if you believe you need help in any way, please do not hesitate to make contact with either of us to see how we can support you.

We look forward to seeing you at the barn dance,

Yours sincerely,

Michael McKenzie
Principal St Patrick’s

Chris Grant
Acting Principal Mercy Regional College
ALCOHOL FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

“DANCE TILL THE COWS COME HOME”

FARMERS BARN DANCE

Friday, May 27

7.00pm - 10.00pm

THEATRE ROYAL, CAMPERDOWN

Starring the ‘Jukebox Cowboys’ featuring Peter Daffy backed by ‘Tuniversal’ and DJ Chris Barks. Called by Mick Saunders!

This event is brought to you by St Patrick’s Primary School and the Mercy Regional College VCAL students

In support of all our dairy farmers, this is now a FREE ENTRY EVENT

Supper provided and special treats for sale

For further details or if you are keen to sponsor this event please email: jowilliams@mercy.vic.edu.au
16th May, 2016

Dear Parents,

Thank you for supporting the fundraising efforts of Mercy Regional College Parents Association. The Annual Chocolate fundraiser contributes substantially to the extra resources the College can provide for your children.

We are sending home today a box of Cadbury chocolates. The boxes are pre-packed and contain 50 items for sale at $1 each. A labelled envelope is included in the box for return of your fundraising contribution of $50. We would appreciate return of all monies as soon as possible, but by Friday 17th June at the latest. Alternatively, you can complete the payment slip below and return it to the Office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Chris Grant
Acting Principal

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CHOCOLATE DRIVE 2016

☐ Thank you, I wish to pay $50.00 for the fundraising box of chocolates

I HAVE MADE PAYMENT DIRECT TO THE COLLEGE BANK ACCOUNT:
083-526 BSB 528899931 Account Number Date:

I ENCLOSURE PAYMENT ☐ Cheque ☐ Cash ☐ Please charge my Credit Card

NAME ON CARD: _______________________________________________________

CARD NUMBER: _____ _____ - _____ _____ - _____ _____ - _____ _____

EXPIRY DATE: _____ - _____

Signature: ________________________________ Contact Phone No.: ________________

Student Name: ____________________________ Home Room: ________
(Youngest child attending the College)

Parent/Guardian Name: (please print) ___________________________________________

Please return payment to the College office by Friday 17th June 2016
Kimberley Leadership & Cultural Experience

Following the success of last year, we are pleased to announce that the Mercy Regional College Immersion trip to the Kimberley will be offered again in 2016.

As with any project undertaken by the school it is based highly on the core values of our school, specifically those of: Community, Inclusiveness, Justice and Mercy. At its essence, our trip to the Kimberley’s is designed to provide an immersion experience for interested students.

The trip is planned to run Monday 14th October, 2016 until Monday, 24th October 2016, and will be open to Year 8 students.

This program will use sport as the catalyst to develop leadership skills and a greater understanding of our Indigenous story. Students and staff will be working with students from Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek. Our students will conduct a number of sporting clinics and also support classroom teachers with Numeracy and Literacy. This trip will give our students an aesthetic appreciation of the Kimberley but more importantly a connection with the people that they will meet.

The purpose of the trip is to provide an opportunity for students to develop relationships with a remote Aboriginal community. To provide students with the opportunity to immerse in another culture, as they will be introduced to the traditional Aboriginal culture of the area. This will enable our students to develop relationships which will broaden their understanding of cultural groups within Australia.

Kimberley Leadership and Cultural Experience Information Night
Will be held at 7:00pm
on
Monday 30th May, 2016
In the McAuley Campus Library

Interested students and their families are very welcome. Members of the school Leadership team and I will explain the purpose and structure of the Kimberley Experience as well as the exciting benefits for staff, students and our school community alike.

We look forward to seeing you there,

Mr. James Castles
Head of O’Keeffe Campus
INVITATION

All parents, families and students are cordially invited to the

Mercy Regional College

2016
FEAST DAY MASS

To be held in the
De Chantal Stadium
McAuley Campus

Tuesday
24th May @ 9:30am

Term 2 - 2016 Dates

Monday 23rd May
Year 9 Sovereign Hill Excursion

Tuesday 24th May
MRC Feast Day

Wednesday 25th May
Australian History Competition (Year 7 – 10s)

Friday 27th May
• Year 10 Health & Wellbeing Workshop

Monday 30th May
Try a Career Day
VCE Q & A Night 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday 31st May
UNSW Science Competition

Thursday 2nd June
Keys Please Presentation for Year 10s

Friday 3rd June
MacBeth Performance to Year 10s

Monday 6th June
GWR Cross Country

Tuesday 7th June
VCAA GAT

Friday 10th June
Middle School Exams / Year 8 Mid-Term Exams

Monday 13th June
Queen’s Birthday Holiday

Tuesday 14th June
Year 8 Mid-Term Exams

Wednesday 15th June
Middle School Exams

Thursday 16th June
Correction Day – Student Free Day

Friday 17th June
2017 Enrolment Applications Due

Monday 20th June
GWR Soccer – Inter & Senior

Tuesday 21st June
Year 8 Retreat

Friday 24th June
Term 2 Concludes
Christian Outreach
Kellie Wilson & Sharyn Grinter

The Year 10 RE curriculum incorporates a unit entitled Christian Outreach and most within our College community will be familiar with the success of the visits that our students make to a number of local venues and organisations. The David Newman Centre being one of these.

This week the College had the pleasure of hosting a group of ladies from the David Newman Centre, accompanied by staff, Maureen Crameri (past parent) and Angela (Gleeson) Kemp (past student). This visit commenced with Morning Tea in the Library with some staff members. A few of the ladies had attended school here or had children or grandchildren attend.

Acting Principal Mr. Chris Grant, along with the boys who have participated in the program, so far, then accompanied the group on a tour of the areas of the College which have been newly built and refurbished.

We look forward to making this visit an annual one and acknowledge the staff at the David Newman Centre and Mrs. Jo Saunders, Director of RE, for initiating and organizing a very enjoyable morning.
Career News
Mrs. Jenny Phillips

The brand new Mercy careers website
Just a reminder that we have a brand new careers website. This website is a ‘One Stop Shop’ for everything you need for career planning and help.

To access this excellent resource, go to:
Mercy Homepage > Co-curricular > Careers > Mercy Careers – careers.mercy.vic.edu.au

Once inside the website, to access the Weekly Career News go to:
Important Info. (top of the page) > Careers Newsletter > Career News

Check It Out!

Try a Career Day
All Year 9 students will be attending the SWTAFE Try a Career Day on Monday 30th May at Sherwood Park Warrnambool. Students have selected their three preferred sessions and permission forms have been sent home. This is an ideal opportunity for students to try a variety of course options that can lead into VETIS programs, trades, or further study.

RIST – Wool Overview Program
This is another great opportunity for a small number of our Year 9 students to check out the wool industry first-hand. This program is run by RIST at Mt Elephant station over three days (25th - 26th May & 1st June) and all Year 9 students have been emailed the details.

Mock Interviews
On Tuesday 17th May the majority of the Year 11 students undertook simulated job interviews. The students were given the opportunity to meet with and impress prospective employers in order to obtain a hypothetical job. The students had to apply for a job, by preparing and submitting in advance, both a cover letter and resume. On Tuesday twenty-six interviewers from the local community, generously donated their time and expertise, in order to assist our students further develop their job application skills. The day provided valuable reassurance and constructive criticism for our students that they will be able to use in future job application and interview situations. Congratulations to all the participating students, as the positive feedback from the interviewers commended the students on their presentation and attitude.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those interviewers who made this process possible and Darren Mounsey from Westvic Staffing Solutions for providing preparatory sessions for the students. Those students who were unavailable for this round of interviews will have this opportunity provided early next term.

Keeper for a Day

Werribee Open Range Zoo
Interested in a career as a zoo keeper? If you think you may like to work with animals come and join us for the day. You will participate in a range of hands on experiences designed to provide you with an insight into the role of a zoo keeper. This is a great opportunity to discover first-hand the skills and experience recommended to gain a position as a zoo keeper amongst a competitive field of applicants.

Ages: Years 7-12 students.
Cost: $115; $103.50 zoo members.
Bookings: 9285 9406.

www.zoo.org.au/werribee/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day

Healesville Sanctuary
Come to Healesville Sanctuary to learn about what it takes to work in a zoo! These school holidays we are celebrating the opening of our new koala exhibit. You will have the chance to meet some of our amazing keepers and animals and find out what a zoo keeper’s day is really like.

To book phone our Sales Team on 1300 966 784.

http://www.zoo.org.au/healesville/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day
Health Promotion Update – Healthy Students Learn Better!

St Patrick’s Primary School and Mercy Regional College are working together to become health promoting schools. We have registered to be involved with the Achievement Program, which is a Healthy Together Victoria initiative which was jointly developed by the Department of Health and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The school environment can influence children and young people's health and wellbeing, which has an impact on learning and development, including numeracy and literacy outcomes. The Achievement Program provides a framework and supporting resources to help coordinate existing and new activities using a whole-school approach to promote the health and wellbeing of students. It’s not just for students; it also supports the health and wellbeing of staff, and engages families and the wider community too.

The program involves eight key health priority areas, we have decided to start working on 2 areas which are; Healthy Eating and Oral Health and Mental Health and Wellbeing

We have formed a health and wellbeing team, consisting of Annie Judd & Paul Kingston (representing St Pat’s) and Claire Walsh & Emily Stephens (representing Mercy) along with Nikita Wheaton (Health Promotion Officer at SWH).

In the coming months there will be more information available and we can’t wait to get started on creating a healthy school community. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact a representative at your school.

Senior School Report

Lachie Lee, Lesa Thornton and Stacey Hillman.

As we approach the middle of second term, I would like to remind all in the community of some upcoming events concerning the Senior School.

The VCAL students are in the midst of organising the Barn Dance for the families of our community which is to be held on Friday 27th May. In light of the pressures that have come upon some in our community in the dairying and allied industries in recent days, entry to this event will now be FREE. The VCAL students are fully involved in producing a top class event.

As explained in the last newsletter, the General Achievement Test (GAT) will be held for our VCE students at Camperdown College Hall at 10:00am on Tuesday 7th June. VCAA regulations state that all students taking VCE Unit 3 and 4 studies in 2016 must sit the GAT. All Unit 3 and 4 students have been briefed regarding the school’s expectations for the GAT and Year 11 students to whom the GAT is applicable will have a chance to look at a practice paper in the weeks leading up to the test. Following the GAT, we will be having John Parkinson from St. John of God Hospital in Warrnambool TO speak to the students about mental health issues.

In conjunction with the Loaf and Lounge we are hosting a breakfast for Year 12 students and their mentors on Friday 27th May at 7:45am. Paul and Kate Kent have been very generous in offering their premises and products to us for this event. The cost is $5 and we encourage all students to attend. Money is to be given in advance to Lesa Thornton.

Stacey Hillman is in the process of organising some guest speakers to talk to the students about their mental and physical wellbeing. At the moment this is likely to occur during Pastoral Care on Friday 3rd June.

The Year 11 end of semester exam program for those studying Units 1 and 2 VCE subjects will be held between Friday 3rd June & Wednesday 15th June.

The Senior School evening that was to be held on Monday 30th May has been postponed until third term. A new date will be communicated to all that coincides with start of VTAC applications.

Thank you,

Lachie Lee, Lesa Thornton and Stacey Hillman.
The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a 12-day residential program held in January each year for students before they enter year 12. It is a national program involving students from across Australia, selected through a process run by Rotary districts. The NYSF aims to show participants the variety of study and career opportunities available to them if they continue to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at a tertiary level.

In January 2016 two students from Mercy Regional College were chosen to attend the NYSF; below is a brief report of their experience.

**Stephanie Hibburt**

For me the NYSF was an absolute blast and I strongly encourage any year 11 students who have any interest in science to apply. I attended the second session of the NYSF in January along with 200 other students. I absolutely loved every minute of it. The 12 days were action packed with lab visits, lectures and formal science dinners. I never thought I could make so many new friends in just under two weeks! I was lucky enough to visit places like the NASA deep space communication complex and speak with physicians, engineers, and even had the opportunity to speak with CERN about the Hadron Collider. There wasn’t a single dull moment and it’s an experience I will never forget.

**Caitlin Williams**

The NYSF was very full on and exhausting, but I loved every minute of it and am so glad I applied as I learnt more than I was ever expecting! Some of my favourite parts of the NYSF included the many lab visits related to medical science (particularly the pathology lab visit), lectures from accomplished and impressive scientists, and the Rotary and Science dinners.

I have gained so much from NYSF, and it has completely changed the way in which I approach problems and opportunities for the rest of my life. It has really opened my eyes to all of the possibilities that are there for me and all of the different career paths I could take!

Year 11 students – It’s not too late to apply for the NYSF. Applications for the 2017 sessions close on the 31st of May. To make an expression of interest go to the website nysf.edu.au
# Dinny's Dinner Term 2-2016 Roster

**Starting Time is 10:00am**

Wendy 0427 822 361  Nicola 0411 899 939

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<td>Wednesday 18/5- Cherie Mungean-0418535928</td>
<td>Wednesday 25/5-Paula Fleming-0409950738</td>
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<td>Thursday 19/5- Narelle Kerr-0400376404</td>
<td>Thursday 26/5- Julie Giblin-0409517848</td>
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<td>Friday 27/5-Paula Poole-0419889060-Julie Barake-0428323821</td>
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<td>Wednesday 8/6- Debbie Chesslett-55931227</td>
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<td>Thursday 2/6- Caroline Bucholz-55963564</td>
<td>Thursday 9/6- Karen Harrison-55947349</td>
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<td>Tuesday 14/6- Bern Place-0419595066</td>
<td>Tuesday 21/6- Catherine Krybolder-0428950275</td>
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<td>Wednesday 15/6- Liz Place-0427947238</td>
<td>Wednesday 22/6- Gaynor Marquand-0488510460</td>
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<td>Thursday 16/6- NO MRC</td>
<td>Thursday 23/6- Kerri Kissack-0417100739</td>
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<td>Friday 17/6- Wendy and Nicola</td>
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**THE CANTEEN IS LOOKING FOR NEW HELPERS, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP OUT PLEASE CONTACT WENDY OR NICOLA ON THE PHONE THE ABOVE NUMBERS**
JOIN THE VOLUNTEER CREW!

Fun4Kids Festival volunteer registrations are now open and we need your help!

Adults and Students (14+ years) are invited to participate. There’s heaps of ways to be involved and flexible rosters are available.

WHEN? 26th June- 2nd July 2016

INTERESTED?

Please contact Stephanie Hargreaves 03 5559 4834 | shargreaves@warrnambool.vic.gov.au or check out the website www.fun4kids.com.au/volunteers

Daryl Richardson has some application forms
Show FX presents

A Powerful Fireworks Show in Noorat!

Where:
Noorat Recreation Reserve

Date:
Thursday 26th May

Time:
7.30pm

Cost:
Gold coin donation towards the Terang Hospital
Lorelle's teas available prior to the event from 6pm onwards.
Local residents should secure pets prior & during the event.
PLAYERS WANTED

Cobden Night Netball

Starting Monday 11th July
(Games beginning 1st week of Term 3)

JUNIOR COMPETITION
C GRADE - Grade 2 to Grade 4
Wednesday Night 4.30pm onwards
All player registrations for C Grade
contact Sarah Walsh 0447 951 932

B GRADE - Grade 5 to Year 7
Monday Night 4.30pm onwards
All player registrations for B Grade
contact Leah Buckle 0418 505 373

For general enquiries contact
Janelle Smith 0409 423 687

ALL names due in by Wednesday 1st June
No late names will be excepted

SENIOR COMPETITION
A GRADE
Monday Night 6.30pm onwards

A RES GRADE
Wednesday Night 6.30pm onwards

Text teams or individual names to
Renae Sullivan 0447 054 971
by Wednesday 1st June