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”.

With the June holidays almost upon us, many families will be taking the opportunity for some time away but for others, work or farm commitments mean that the two weeks will be spent at home. For many people, the mist, rain and short days that signify winter are important times, opportunities for reflection, contemplation and inside.

Today’s prayer calls us to similar quiet times:

God help us to live slowly
To move simply
To look softly
To allow emptiness
To let the heart, create for us
Amen.

First Day of Term 3
On the first day of Term 3, Monday 11th July, all Mercy staff will be participating in a Professional Learning Day at the McAuley Campus. The day will focus on both Student Wellbeing and Teaching & Learning. As a result, there will be no classes on Monday 11th July. All students will begin on Tuesday 12th July.

Unit 4 Parent Teacher Interviews
The Unit 4 parent teacher interviews will be open for bookings on Monday 11th July. Interviews will be conducted on Monday 17th July, from 2:00pm until 6:00pm. Parent Teacher Interviews will again be made through the Parent Access Module (PAM). This is for Unit 4 students only.

End of Semester Exams
The exam period for years 7-11 have now come to a close. I congratulate all students on their efforts during this time, and the level of significance that each student applied.

Student Fees
We as a school understand the current climate in our community in terms of the reduced milk prices, and how these have a flow on effect for not only our farming families, but many families in our College community. If you would like to discuss school fees with us, then we are more than happy to sit with you to discuss possibilities. Please make contact through the College office.

Stage Two building update
Building works in Middle School are progressing very well, with a great deal completed over the last few weeks. The majority of the roof has been installed and the builders are hopeful to get the building wrapped up and water proof during the school holidays. With a great deal of framing completed inside, the classrooms are taking shape and the area looks fantastic.
Over the next three weeks, SEN04, the Year 9C Homeroom in the adjoining building, will be refurbished inside, and ready for occupancy when students return in Term 3.

Its exciting times ahead for the Middle School Building, and the project timeline is travelling well for a completion in early November.

Student and Staff Activities
In the last two weeks, there have been a number of notable achievements by Mercy students and staff, these include:

- Students competed in the next level of Cross Country at the Greater Western Region Carnival.
- Unit 3 Students sat the VCAA General Achievement Test (GAT) at Camperdown College.
- Heads of Domain, Heads of School, Heads of Teaching & Learning, Curriculum Resource Leaders and members of the College Leadership team gathered for an extended meeting to discuss areas of significance in the school.
- Students at the O’Keeffe Campus enjoyed the Hot Chocolate drinks on offer, fundraising for Social Justice.
- All Year 9 students had a VET, School Based Apprenticeship and workplace learning information session, as a precursor to the Subject selection and information sessions held early in Term 3.

Yours in Mercy,

MR. CHRIS GRANT
ACTING PRINCIPAL
Year 9 RIST Wool Overview Program
Report by Hannah Whytcross

On 25th and 26th May and 1st June, I participated in a three day ‘Wool Overview’ program offered by RIST. It was held at a sheep station, Mount Elephant Estate in Derrinallum. The training course was all about sheep and wool production.

The first day we were taught all about shearing and how to ‘pen up’ sheep. We were also shown how to maintain a clean and safe work environment and introduced to wool classing.

During day two we were asked to put the knowledge we gained from the first day into practice as we were involved in a competition. We were educated about the maintenance involved in keeping the shearing hand piece in good condition and exposed to the different breeds of sheep and their types of wool.

The third day involved a road trip to Woorndoo and Skipton. At Woorndoo we visited a property called ‘Salt Creek’. We watched a shearing team of 11 men and women in action. They had six people shearing and the other five working on the board and table. It was amazing to watch. After that, we arrived at Skipton where we visited a wool market that showed us how wool is sold.

This experience was amazing and I would recommend it to others. This has given me exposure and insight into the wool industry and broader world of agriculture.
Year 9 into 10 VCE/VET/SBAT Information Session
On Wednesday 15th June during periods 5 & 6, Year 9 students attended an information session that introduced them to the options available as part of their Year 10 program.

The students listened to presentations from teachers and guest speakers representing SWTAFE, RIST and Westvic Staffing Solutions. As part of their Year 10 program, students are able to begin VCE studies, undertake VET in school’s programs through MRC, or TAFE, begin a one day a week work placement, or sign up for a school based apprenticeship/traineeship.

Now is the time for these students to begin thinking about what they are interested in studying in 2017, discuss the options with their parents and prepare for the subject selection process in third term.

Careers News
The latest Career News is available through link on the Careers Section of the MRC Website Homepage.

Then click the following link.
As we approach the half year the senior school are heading into the busiest times of the year with the start of Units 2 and 4. In fact this can be seen as some of the most important of their school lives. Students will be given tasks to complete over the break and it is important that these are properly done.

The General Achievement Task (GAT) was completed on the 7th June. This three-hour test is an important component of the assessment process and we were pleased with the attitude and commitment of all who sat the test.

At the moment most classes are deep in the final assessments for Units 3 and 1 and have also completed our exam period. It has also been the time when folio tasks are due for assessment. At this time of the year we often find that students can find this period very stressful and challenging. We attempt to alleviate this stress as best we can but this best remedy is prevention. If students are well organised and use studies at school and homework time at home wisely, they will find that they are better able to cope with these pressures. We are constantly reminding students that a proper balance of school, study, sport, part time work, family life and social life will help them to properly achieve their goals.

Our VCAL students were recently heavily involved in the recent Farmers Barn Dance held at the Camperdown Theatre Royal. This event was a great success and demonstrated the organisational abilities and the commitment and determination of our VCAL cohort to get the job done. Well done.

At the same time as we are working steadily through the requirements of courses at senior school we need also to be thinking about next year. Mrs. Jenny Phillips has been doing lots of work in the careers area and today we will be having a series of guest speakers from various universities and TAFE colleges giving an insight into opportunities for the future. The Year 12 students will enter into the VTAC process next term. Each student will be interviewed individually and counselled regarding the opportunities that they may follow. Students at Year 12 basically have one full term of study left before they launch into the exam period which begins at the end of October.

As well as counselling our Year 12 students we will also go through a series of interviews for our Year 11 students. In these we will look at their proposed courses of study for next year and make sure that they are setting achievable goals for themselves. Students at Years 11 and 12 also sometimes like to incorporate Work Placement programs or TAFE courses into their courses of study so there are many variables in determining what students can find achievable.

We will have the VCE 2017 Information Night on Monday 18th July. This is primarily aimed at Year10 students going into Year 11 next year but parents of current Year 9 or Year 11 students are encouraged to attend as well. We will also then be interviewing extensively all year 10 students in as part of the subject selection process.

Plenty to do over the next few months.

Lachie Lee, Lesa Thornton and Stacey Hillman
Wellbeing Report
Mrs. Emily Stephens

Mercy Soup Kitchen - O'Keeffe Campus
On Friday 24th June (the last day of term) we will be running a Mercy soup kitchen. The soup has been proudly made by students and parents at school and will be served by students on Friday.

There is no cost for students.

The soup of the day is 'Pumpkin noodle soup with a roll'.

We look forward to serving some FREE delicious hot soup to Year 7/8 students on a nice winters day.

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BOUNCE INTO WINTER

2-17 JULY
FREE POP-UP COME & TRY SESSIONS

PILATES  KARATE  BOOTCAMP
WALKS  YOGA  GROUP FITNESS

BRING A FRIEND

Visit Heart of Corangamite on Facebook for schedule of events
**Term 2 / 3 2016 Dates**

**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

**Monday 11 July**  
*Term 3 commences for staff and students*

**Thursday 14 July**  
State Cross Country

**Friday 15 July**  
HSSSA Inter & Senior Basketball – Boys & Girls

**Wednesday 20 July**  
GWR Netball – Year 7 & 8

**Thursday 21 July**  
GWR Netball – Inter & Senior

**Friday 22 July**  
Middle School Oratory Competition

**Tuesday 26 July**  
Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Snow Camp  
Year 7 Enrolment Interviews 3:30 PM-5:30 PM

**Wednesday 27 July**  
Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Snow Camp  
Year 7 Enrolment Interviews 3:30 PM-5:30 PM

**Thursday 28 July**  
Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Snow Camp

**Friday 29 July**  
Unit 2 Outdoor Ed Snow Camp
Big changes are coming to Youth Allowance legislation that will allow many more rural families to access Youth Allowance for students aged 18 and over from 1 July 2016.

Currently only student children over 16 years of age and dependant on parents are included in the “Family Pool” for Youth Allowance purposes.

From 1 July 2016 ALL dependent children will be included which will allow many rural families a greater entitlement or some entitlement to Youth Allowance.

It may also mean many current students may be able to access the Relocation Scholarship of $4333 being for 1st year University students when they have had to move away from home to study. Or even $2168 (for 2nd & 3rd year university students).

If you currently have student children undertaking Tertiary studies and have other children under 18 years of age, this is a significant change.

For further information, contact Centrelink or your Accountant.
PUBLIC NOTICES

HOLIDAY ACTORS
YOUNG DIRECTORS PROGRAM

GODSPELL

THURSDAY, JULY 7 – 7.30PM
FRIDAY, JULY 8 – 7.30PM
SATURDAY, JULY 9 – 1.00PM & 7.30PM

Lighthouse Theatre Studio, Warrnambool

Tickets available at:
www.lighthousetheatre.com.au
Ph 5559 4999

Conceived and originally directed by JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK
Music and new lyrics by STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Originally produced on the New York Stage by Edgar Lansbury/Stuart Duncan/Joseph Beruh
An amateur production by arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French Ltd
Timboon Junior basketball 2016

12 years and under and 16 years and under
(12 years and under competition for children from grade 3+)

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN NOW

Play will commence second week of Term 3:
Monday 18th July for 12 years and under
Wednesday 20th July for 16 years and under

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 11th JULY, 2016

Please go to Timboon Basketball Association
or Timboon Sporting centre
Facebook page for more details.