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”.

‘WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK’
* IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AT MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE *

At Mercy Regional College we are responsible for and take great pride in keeping our children safe. As of the 1st August 2016, all Victorian schools will be required to meet the seven child safe standards set by the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to achieve a ‘zero tolerance’ approach to child abuse. All schools are required to meet the legal requirements for the care, safety and welfare of all students enrolled within their schools as outlined by the VRQA.

As a part of meeting these seven child safe standards, all schools have been asked to ensure that all adults who enter the school premises be registered and have obtained a current ‘Working with Children Check’.

A number of individuals have previously obtained a ‘Working with Children Check’ due to their association with community sports, volunteer work in primary schools, or as a part of their own professional working requirements.

All individuals, including trades people, guest speakers and canteen volunteers will be required to show their ‘Working with Children Check’ upon arrival at the front office. If a ‘Working with Children’s Check’ is not sighted by the administration staff, permission will not be granted for that individual to enter any areas of Mercy Regional College.

If as a parent of our College and you work here as a volunteer, can we please ask you to do one of the following:

I currently have a ‘Working with Children Check’ (Volunteers Working with Children Check)
1. You will be required to go online at -http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/utility/home/
   - Click on ‘Cardholders’ and then click on ‘Update Your Details’.
   - Once you have clicked on ‘Update Your Details’, you will be required to login and add Mercy Regional College to your list, as one of your voluntary organisations.

I need to obtain a ‘Working with Children Check’ (Volunteers Working with Children Check)
2. If you do not have a card, you will be required to go online at - http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/utility/home/
   - Click on ‘Applications’ and then
   - Click on ‘Apply for A Check’
   Please then follow the prompts – ‘Start Application’.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with your application in obtaining a ‘Working with Children Check’, please contact our nominated Child Protection Officers Mr. Chris Grant and Mrs. Emily Stephens.
Funding for Catholic Schools

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria has circulated a document to assist families understand the political landscape in relation to Funding arrangements for Catholic schools in the coming election. In short, at this election, both the Liberal-National Coalition and the ALP have recognised the continued social and economic value of Catholic schools by committing to continued funding for our system. Unfortunately, Catholic schools don’t have the same commitment from the Greens. More information regarding these arrangements has been included in this newsletter.

THE 2016 FEDERAL ELECTION:

A Few Funding Facts

Catholic schools are a major partner in Victoria’s education system. One in four children are taught in one of the 483 Catholic primary, secondary and special schools throughout the state.

At this federal election, it’s important to remember that funding from the Australian Government constitutes a huge part of your school’s budget. On average, 82 cents in every dollar spent in Victorian Catholic schools comes from the Australian Government. After state government contributions (about 17 cents in the dollar), Catholic school families on average pay the remaining 21 cents.

Government funding ensures that Catholic schools can provide an enriching curriculum that develops the whole child, preparing your child to thrive in the 21st-century global economy. Our student achievement scores demonstrate that these dollars are being put to very good use.

The average ATAR score achieved by Victorian Catholic school students is six points higher than similar government school students, and our system’s average NAPLAN scores in literacy are on average three per cent higher.

Government funding is also essential to our mission of keeping parent fees affordable so that Catholic schools are accessible to as many Catholic families as possible.

Any move to cut or freeze Catholic school funding would have a devastating impact on the quality of your child’s education and the school fees you pay.

At this election, both the Liberal-National Coalition and the ALP have recognised the continued social and economic value of Catholic schools by committing to continued funding for our system.

Unfortunately, Catholic schools don’t have the same commitment from the Greens. Some of their policies seek to undermine your choice of a faith-based education for your child, not only by attacking our values, but also by taking money from Catholic and other non-government schools. This would lead to a poorer education system for all children around the country.

This Election Day, please take this information into consideration. The future of your child’s education may depend on it.
Head of Teaching and Learning Senior School
Mr. Lachie Lee

VCE/VCAL INFORMATION NIGHT
The VCE Information night will be held at McAuley Campus Camperdown on Monday 18 July from 7.00pm. This night is aimed at parents/guardians and students in Years 10 and 11 but those from Year 9 are also most welcome.

The format of the evening will comprise an overall explanation of the VCE, VET and VCAL courses followed by an opportunity to speak to teachers about individual subject areas. The evening is to be finished by 9.00pm.

This evening is to be held in conjunction with VCE/VET/VCAL Information sessions with the Year 10 students to be held from 11.15am until 12.55pm.

In the weeks following this session we will arrange individual meetings with all Year 10 students to discuss their subject/course choices for 2017. Parents/guardians are most welcome to attend these sessions. The final part of the subject selection process will occur with the construction of the timetable. While we attempt to satisfy everyone’s desires regarding their subject choices there is always a possibility that some individual subjects won’t run because of small numbers or that an individual student’s timetable contains clashes in their subjects. Please contact Mr Chris Grant or me if you have any queries.

VCE PT INTERVIEWS
In an effort to speak to those parents of students studying Year 12 in 2016, we have scheduled a separate Parent Teacher Interview session for Monday 18 July.

These interviews will be run from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. The Unit 4 parent teacher interviews will be open for bookings on Monday 11th July through the Parent Access Module.

Please contact Mr. Chris Grant or me if you have any queries.

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Present this voucher at the Terang Community Op Shop during the June School Holidays and be eligible to “buy one, get one free.”
With the compliments of the Terang Community Op Shop.

The Terang Community Op Shop’s $5.00 BAG SALE is on again.
We are offering the attached voucher to all local school communities for the duration of the upcoming school holidays.
So come in and say “Hi” and grab a few bargains.
Two bags for the price of one.