

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1-2

24th February, 2017

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 2017

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

The school year has only been underway for a few weeks and already the Christmas/January holidays seem many months ago. There is no doubt that life is getting busier and the commitments we have in February are testament to this; yet in recent days, I have been involved in a number of public and private discussions about the elements of excellent learning and teaching. The prayer at Wednesday night's Middle School Information Night and BBQ provided an excellent lens into this fundamental issue:

*Holy God of Wisdom,
as your Son Jesus sat among the wise elders of his day,
so may all of our students, and ourselves, find places and spaces for growth and education.
May students, parents and College staff, listen and learn from the riches of the past.
May we all question and challenge the destructive ways of the present
and may we all find hope and healing for the future
in the power of our God, Guide and Teacher.
Amen*

Departure of Fr Matthew

With Fr. Matthew heading north this week to take up his new appointment as parish priest of Swan Hill, we were informed last week that Fr. Neville Stanislaus had been appointed by the Bishop as the new parish priest of Camperdown and Timboon.



Fr. Neville

Fr Neville will take up this new post from the start of May.
Until that date, Fr Gerry will act as sole Canonical Administrator for Mercy Regional College.



Fr. Gerry

Opening and Blessing of Stage 2 Middle School Buildings

Last Tuesday was an outstanding day for the College with the Opening and Blessing of the Stage 2 Middle School Buildings.

Held in the ground floor of the new building, the event included a liturgy of blessing by Fr Gerry, speeches from our local Federal Member for Wannon, Mr. Dan Tehan, Luke Bone (10D) and myself, instrumental music performances by students and staff, with College Captains, Chloe Gibson and Brad Lucas acting as MCs.

We were joined by around 50 invited guests from the local community, parents, friends, staff (past and present), school principals from around the diocese, student leaders from Junior and Senior Schools as well as the Year 9 student cohort.

The opening and blessing also allowed those invited to have a look around the new facilities escorted by Year 12 student leaders. Lunch was enjoyed in the McAuley Campus Multi-Purpose Area. The morning was a most successful one with a number of press outlets providing extensive coverage this week. Thanks to the many staff who assisted with the set up and running of the day.





Involvement of parents at Mercy Regional College

One of the good things about the start of the school year is that there are a number of events where parents have the opportunity to meet new teachers, explore new facilities and engage in conversations about the learning and teaching priorities for the College. In recent weeks, these have included the Commencement Mass and Assembly, Year 7 & Middle School Information Nights, today's College Swimming Sports and the various farewells we celebrated for Fr Matt. Mercy Regional College places an enormous value on the influence that parents can have on the education of their children; we fundamentally believe that teachers and families must work in partnership to achieve the best learning outcomes for young people.

Therefore, I have been and remain committed to involving parents in all aspects of College life and the decisions that we take. Three important groups are meeting at times during the rest of this term (and beyond that) that I would welcome parent involvement into:

- The College has recently put in place a College Promotions Committee whose role is to lead and support Mrs. Julie Giblin, Promotions Officer, in her work of promoting Mercy Regional College in the school and broader community. Among the Committee's initial priorities is a review and revamp of our annual College Open Evening. The committee is planning to meet monthly after school on Wednesdays.
- Two years ago, we undertook a significant relaunch of the College's PTFA with the result being the Mercy Parents' Consultative Group (PCG) – their role was to provide direct advice to the Principal on major issues and developments at the College. The PCG meets towards the end of each term and we would love to see an influx of new members. I will provide more details on our first meeting for 2017 in the next newsletter.
- The College's Finance Committee provides support and oversight to the Principal and Business Manager and reports directly to the College Board. This committee meets eight times per year after school on the second Tuesday of the month and we are looking for parents to join who have an interest or expertise in any aspect of financial & business management.

If you are interested in being involved in any of these groups, please phone my secretary, Mrs. Sue Bohm on 5593 2011 or email her sue@mercy.vic.edu.au.



Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent

Next Wednesday 1st March is Ash Wednesday, a day that marks the beginning of Lent, the important time of preparation in the Christian tradition as we move towards Easter. It is a season where all Catholics are challenged to prepare themselves for Easter by undertaking three actions: alms-giving (giving money to those less fortunate than ourselves), fasting (using the action of sacrifice as a means of reflection) and prayer.

Students and staff at Mercy Regional College will be involved with Ash Wednesday liturgies at both campuses on Wednesday and **meat will not be available** from the College canteen or through Foodies for the O'Keeffe campus.

Presentation Ball Preparations

For most Year 11 students and their families, the 2017 Presentation Ball is only three weeks away with students participating in dance practices most Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Next week, I will be mailing home a letter to all parents as well as speaking to all Year 11 students about the College's firm policy and position with respect to after parties. Although the Presentation Ball is a wonderful celebration for families and students, parties that follow later on the weekend run the grave risk of ruining reputations and causing injury. I must emphasise in the strongest terms that the College **does not sanction or support** after parties after any College event.

Student and Staff Activities

As I have alluded to earlier, there have been plenty of activities for students and staff in the last two weeks:

- Last week saw five year levels completing a range of co-curricular programs: Year 7 camp, Year 9 BRICKs program, Year 10 Work Experience, Year 11 Melbourne camp and Year 12 Retreat. Each of these was a great success with staff and students abuzz with what they experienced.

I would like to particularly thank the efforts of the Mercy staff who organized and participated in these endeavours; having a duty of care for adolescents across a series of days and nights is never easy.

- Today, the College will be at the Camperdown Pool enjoying our Swimming Carnival. Good luck to all those competing and may the best house win.
- Congratulations to the students who represented the College at this week's Lions' Youth of the Year competition in Terang and to Ripley Watt who has been selected to compete at the regional finals next week.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

Spirit of ANZAC Exhibition

All Year 9 students visited a special touring exhibition for the ANZAC Centenary, in Geelong, on Wednesday February 22nd.

We enjoyed some sunshine, with an early lunch at Rippleside Park, before heading to the exhibition at The Arena.

The Spirit of ANZAC Experience is largely based on over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, and integrates interactive environments and special effects to convey the story. Students could follow the experience of a young nation, heading into a war, thousands of miles away. They could almost walk in the footsteps of nurses, soldiers, sailors and airmen throughout campaigns on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Western Front and Middle East.

This excursion provided students with an invaluable, one-off learning opportunity. It links directly to their study of World War 1 from an Australian perspective, which will be undertaken later in the year. Topics covered included a nation in the making, declaration of war, enlistment, the conscription debate, traveling to Egypt for training, Gallipoli, The Western Front and Middle East, the aftermath and remembrance.

Thanks to the teachers who attended – Mrs. Saunders, Mr. Bouchier, Mrs. Penry, Mr. Norman, Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Rix and Mrs. Jan Smith, and the students for their excellent behaviour.

Mrs. Tania Bruckner
Humanities Teacher



Year 11 Camp

Mrs. Jenny Phillips

Year 11 Camp Overview

15th, 16th and 17th February, 2017 – Geelong/Melbourne

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7
Wednesday Morning	Deakin University Waurm Ponds	Deakin University Waterfront	Marcus Oldham	The Gordon – City	The Gordon – East Geelong		
Wednesday Afternoon	'The Amazing Race'						
Wednesday Evening	RE experience – Monastery Dinner at Vic Market	RE experience – Seminary Dinner at Vic Market	RE exp Academy Dinner at Vic Market				
Thursday Morning	Visit the Holocaust Museum						
Thursday Afternoon	Holmesglen TAFE	Swinburne University	University of Melbourne and St Mary's College Tour	ADF	Academy of Design and PSC	Collarts and PSC	Collarts and JMC Academy
Thursday Evening	Ten Pin Bowling Group Dinner in Lygon Street						
Friday Morning	William Angliss	RMIT	Sage Institute	Elly Lukas	AIE		
Friday Afternoon	Endeavour College	ACU	Melbourne Polytechnic (Fairfield)	Vic Uni (King St)	Vic Uni (Footscray Park)		

Year 11 Camp Report

Laura Hickey

On Wednesday 15th February, the Year 11s departed on the train from Terang, or Camperdown between 6.00am and 7.00am for Melbourne.

Over the next three days, we undertook tours of many different Uni's and Colleges, and learnt about the different courses they offer across all their campuses. Of the institutions that I visited, I found Collarts and JMC were the most enjoyable. We had tours of their recording studios and learnt about the different types of courses they offer and the types of qualifications you can complete.

In between all the Uni tours, we completed an 'Amazing Race', visited the Holocaust Museum and went Ten Pin Bowling. Overall, learning about all the various study and career paths we could take after school was pretty good.



Year 12 Retreat Report

Andrea Fuller and Kellie Wilson

We had a lovely few days away for Year 12 Retreat at Bacchus Marsh. The first afternoon was spent on getting to know the people in our group and team building exercises. The Giant Swing also featured which was 21 metres worth of fun!

On Thursday morning we spent some time working out our intent and focus for the year ahead and learnt a lot about each other and ourselves. Thursday evening was the annual "Recycled Formal" where we all had fun dressing and students were partnered up to walk the catwalk together and have dinner in a more formal setting.

Friday morning after packing up we had some quiet time focusing on some of the opportunities we will have in 2017 to do and be our best! We also organised a short liturgy to sum up and reflect on our time away together. Everyone was great at working together and supporting each other. A really great time was had by all.



Year 7 Cape Bridgewater Camp

It was Wednesday 15th February and it was Markey and Tindley's time to go on camp to Cape Bridgewater. I was so excited, but most of all excited for surfing. I had been surfing once before and it was extremely fun. I might not have caught many waves that day, but either way I still had an awesome time. So the time had come, it was day two and this was the day we had surfing. My group did not have surfing up first, we had caving instead. Surfing for us was second. So we had left the terrifying and dark caves all dirty, but to get rid of all that dirt was surfing. Everyone was full of sweat, yet eager to get on the bus and head to the beach for surfing. We ended up meeting the bus driver Smarty outside the cave. He was waiting there with afternoon tea for us. We headed on the bus, in no time we were at the beach.

We hopped off the bus just knowing that we were going to have a great time. Already I could smell the salt from the water and see the froth lying on top of the waves. We chucked our wet suits on and sprinted towards the water. The guide ran us through a few rules and told us what we had to do to catch some waves. We dragged our boards over to the water and started to paddle out deep. Already I was seeing people catching waves, they were enjoying it so much. Finally, I caught a wave! I was so happy for myself, but then my happiness went down a tad because as soon as I hit the water I got a huge gulp of salt water, ill.

There were many highs and lows. One high was catching a wave and seeing all the waves crash down against each other. The down side was swallowing a lot of salt water and the seaweed rubbing up against your legs!!!!



Building Resilience in Corangamite Kids (BRICKs)

Mr. Ben Brisbane

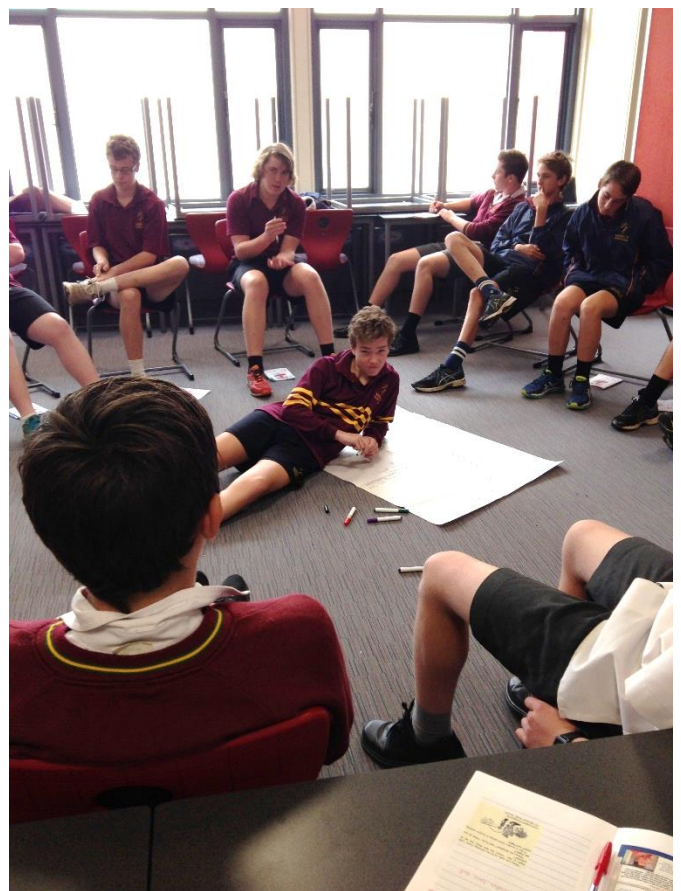
Last week all Year 9 students participated in our BRICK's Program that is facilitated by the Corangamite Shire. The program ran over two days and hopefully all students were able to learn something about how to handle the pressures of adolescent life. Below is a description of the program.

Focus:

A program for Year 9 students delivered by Corangamite Shire Council, the school and local health services. The program is based on the understanding that our thoughts play a critical role in influencing feelings and consequent behaviour.

The aim of BRICKs is to enhance and maintain emotional and psychological resilience in students. Young people who possess sound social and emotional skills are better able to cope with the stressors of daily life.

They also tend to have better relationships with teachers, parents, and peers, and perform better academically. Very importantly, young people with these skills are less likely to experience significant mental health issues in the future.



Middle School Information Night

Thank you to all parents that attended our Middle School Information Night held on Wednesday 22nd February. It was great to see everyone and to give all the chance to walk around our new facility. The evening began with a BBQ and tours and concluded with our presentation. There was many topics that were covered and below is a list of the areas that were presented.

- Importance of the working relationship between the school, parents and child.
- Communication is vitally important and that homeroom teachers welcome any correspondence with parents.
- Middle School Leadership opportunities – nomination/application process has begun and elections will be held next week.
- Yr. 9 BRICK's Leaders will be arranged by the end of term 1.
- Student expectations/behavior – focus being on respectful relationships.
- Classroom Behavioural Management procedure/Uniform approach.
- Future pathways – Career advice with Mrs. Phillips
- What parents can do to help.
- Opportunities within the Corangamite Shire – Youth Council.
- How to use PAM – If password is forgotten please click the forgot password TAB.
- Major challenges in the transition from Yr. 8 to Yr. 9, and Yr. 9 to Yr. 10.
- English texts – films can be watched via Enhance TV and audiobooks available Student Media on SIMON.
- How mathematics is structured and aligns with VCE choices.
- Assessment Tasks on PAM.
- Homework guidelines/types of homework.
- Co-curricular opportunities.
- Pastoral Care/Homeroom Challenges.
- Important Dates – Please refer to our college calendar.

If there are any concerns about the above mention topics, please don't hesitate to contact your son/daughters homeroom teacher or coordinators to assist with your query. List of homeroom teacher names and their email address are below.

Again, it was great to see all that attended and keep in touch.

Thanks,

Mr. Ben Brisbane – Head of Middle School (Wellbeing)

Mr. Daryl Richardson – Assistant Head of Middle School (Wellbeing)

Ms. Claire O'Connor & Miss Jacqui Hester – Joint Head of Middle School (Teaching & Learning)

9A – Mrs. Leanne Carpenter lcarpenter@mercy.vic.edu.au	9D – Ms. Jo Williams jwilliams@mercy.vic.edu.au	10C – Mrs. Danae Fraser dfraser@mercy.vic.edu.au
9B – Mrs. Fiona Sargeant fsargeant@mercy.vic.edu.au	10A – Mrs. Tania Bruckner tbruckner@mercy.vic.edu.au	10D – Mrs. Emily Stephens estephens@mercy.vic.edu.au
9C – Mr. Jared Lynn jlynn@mercy.vic.edu.au	10B – Mr. Matt Harkin mharkin@mercy.vic.edu.au	

Important Dates

Term 1 & 2 – 2017

Tuesday 28th February

- HSSSD Swimming

Wednesday 1st March

- Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Tuesday 7th March

- School Photos

Wednesday 8th March

- House Athletics

Monday 13th March

- Labour day Holiday – no staff and students

Thursday 16th March

- PARTY Program

Friday 17th March

- Presentation Ball – Glenormiston College

Tuesday 21st March

- MRC Board AGM Meeting

Thursday 23rd March

- Year 9 Sovereign Hill Excursion

Friday 24th March

- GWR Swimming

Tuesday 28th March

- O'Keeffe Parent Morning Tea

Wednesday 29th March

- HSSSD Athletics

Friday 31st March

- Term 1 concludes for students

Tuesday 18th April

- Term 2 Commences

Wed 19th – Fri 21st April

- Year 8 Camp

Monday 24th April

- Staff PD – no school for students

Tuesday 25th April

- Anzac Day – no school for staff and students

Wednesday 26th April

- Parent Teacher Interviews (11:00am – 7:00pm)

Thursday 27th April

- Year 7 Immunisations

Head of O'Keeffe Campus

Mr. James Castles

O'Keeffe Campus Student Leadership

Well done to all those students for been a part of the O'Keeffe Campus student leadership process.

Congratulations to all our successful applicant.

Campus Captains:

Tahli Kent and Louis Darcy

Tindley House Captains:

Victoria Steel, Hugh Giblin and Jed Podger

Frayne House Captains:

Zoe Marsland and Hamish Sinnott

Ryan House Captains:

Holly Swayn, Maggie Conheady and Ella Pekin

Markey House Captains:

Tom Marwood and Nicole Bath

Junior School Core Value Awards

Congratulations to the following junior school students who received 'Core Value Awards' this week.

Justice and Mercy:

Seeks to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Rosie Pickles

Learning:

Encourages our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.

Ryley Hutchins

Community:

Promotes the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Oceia Hahn

Care:

Commit ourselves to caring for each other.

Maggie Conheady

Inclusiveness:

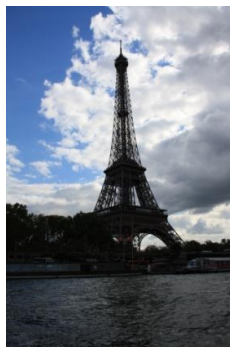
Welcomes and celebrates individual difference.

Rory Mason

Excellence and Achievement:

Support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Katherine Marshall



MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE FRANCE AND BELGIUM BATTLEFIELDS TOUR 2017

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY
THIS TOUR HAS BECOME A TRADITION IN THE LIFE OF MERCY

BE PART OF THIS GREAT EXPERIENCE IN 2017



Departs Melbourne on **Friday 15 September 2017**
and returns
Thursday 28 September 2017.

Open to all students from Years 9-12.

For more information contact:

Lachie Lee at llee@mercy.vic.edu.au
or see the office for itinerary and further information.

Lions Youth of the Year

Mr. Lachie Lee

Mercy was represented at the Lions Youth of the Year Awards this week by Ripley Watt and Jazmine Negrello. Ripley won the event at Terang and will represent Mercy in March at the next stage. Her topic was "Life in a Small Community". Jazmine Negrello was a very good representative and she did very well. Her topic was "Passions in my Life". Congratulations to both girls.



Ripley Watt, Lachie Lee & Jazmine Negrello



PUBLIC NOTICES



Cobden Golf Club

Mates Helping Mates

Friday 31st March 2017

The Cobden Golf Club will be holding a Free Community Night to bring together mates to help raise awareness of anxiety and depression and provide information on the range of support available. Wayne Schwass Ex AFL Player and local farmer Jack Kenna will share their personal experience on Anxiety & Depression.

Information from the National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing is saying, more than one million people in Australia live with depression and more than two million have anxiety.

One in five women and one in eight men will experience depression in their lifetime. Anxiety is even more common. On average, one in four people – one in three women and one in five men – will experience anxiety at some stage in their life.

SPEAKERS – Speakers on the night will be:-

- **John Parkinson**
 - Community Relations /Mental Health Manager St John of God Warrnambool - John will open the evening and provide us all with a overview on the effects of Anxiety & Depression in OUR COMMUNITY and the overall effect to our lives either directly or indirectly.
- **Jack Kenna**
 - Jack is a local farmer from the Sisters, He is Currently President of the Terang Football Netball Club and past president of the East Framingham Golf Club and Kolora /Noorat Football Netball Club
- **Wayne Schwass**
 - Wayne is a Ex VFL and AFL Premiership Player having played 184 games with North Melbourne Kangaroos and 98 games with the Sydney Swans – He is originally from South Warrnambool and is now a AFL Commentator on Triple M and also hosts Off the Bench on Channel 9 on Thursday Nights

Both Wayne and Jack have suffered from Anxiety & Depression and are now active in spreading the message that there is assistance available. Listen to their stories and how they worked through their issues with anxiety and mental health. They know our region and will be able to relate to the issues that we have in our Community.

DATE - FRIDAY 31st March 2017

TIME - Seated by 7:00pm for dinner with Speakers to commence at 7:30pm

MEAL - A meal will be provided at NO COST to all that PRE-BOOK to attend
Drinks will be available at Bar Prices.

BOOKINGS - All booking to the Cobden Golf Club – (03) 5595 -1393

Cobden Golf Club “Mates Helping Mates” is supported by: -

Fonterra Grass Roots Program - Brian O'Halloran – Bendigo Bank – Cobden AB - Hampden Veterinary Clinic –
National Australia Bank – Cobden Health Services

Cobden U14 & U16 Football Training

Cobden U14 and U16 football training will commence on

Friday 3rd March at 4:30pm

Current and new players welcome.

Contact coach Martin Darcy for any enquiries on -

0438 953 084