

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2-1

Friday 21st April, 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".

Welcome to term 2 to everyone in the Mercy community and I hope that the holiday break and Easter season provided some time for rest and family time while not being overwhelmed by chocolate! My prayer this week takes us back to Easter and the mystery of the Resurrection:

A Reading from the Gospel of John,

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

(John 20: 19–21)

Kindle in us the fire of your love. Risen Christ, from the waters of baptism you raise us up with you and renew your gift of life within us. Help us to grow as your people towards the fullness of life and love. Kindle in us the fire of your love.

Amen.

An interrupted start to Term 2

As I outlined last term, the first three weeks of this term are quite disrupted with a mix of internal and external interruptions occurring. I have outlined these below; thankfully, the term settles down without significant interruptions after this time.

Monday 24 th April	Staff Curriculum PD Day (No classes)
Tuesday 25 th April	ANZAC Day
Wednesday 26 th April	Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 3 rd May	Staff PD (am) & College Open Day (pm) (No classes)
Thursday 4 th May	College Cross-country (Period 3 & 4 only)

Some details on these events:

- Next Monday's staff PD day involves Mercy teachers running a series of short workshops on teaching and learning strategies and/or best practice in assessment for their peers.
- Wednesday 26th April provides the first opportunity for parents and students to join their teachers to discuss learning and teaching progress for the year to date. It is being held from 11.00am – 7.00pm in the de Chantal Stadium. Bookings are through the College's Parent Access Module (PAM).
- On the morning of Wednesday 3rd May, all staff will attend a presentation by Dr Richard Eisenmajer on autism and how to engage students who are on the autism spectrum.
- Wednesday afternoon will be focused on setting up the displays and workshops for Open Day at the O'Keeffe Campus.

Seussical

The weekend beginning Friday 5th May sees the opening of the Camperdown Theatre Company's annual musical performance with *Seussical* to be staged at Camperdown's Theatre Royal. A number of past and present Mercy Regional College students and staff are involved on stage and in the production team and I encourage all members of the school community to support the show. Tickets are available through TryBookings with details on the *Seussical* flyer later in this newsletter.

Mercy Regional College Open Day

As I mentioned above, Wednesday 3rd May sees the College open the doors of the O'Keeffe Campus to prospective MRC students with our annual Open Day. An invitation to the event is included below and all Year 5 & 6 students in our HCSN schools should receive their own copy next week. The afternoon & evening is being held from **3.00 – 6.30pm** at the O'Keeffe Campus, McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat. (See flyer on page 4).

The College has undertaken a complete overhaul of the evening with the focus this year on providing students with the opportunity to explore each of the College learning areas or domain through short hands-on activities that will showcase the opportunities that a Mercy education offers. The Open Day will also offer afternoon tea for parents and family members with a short information session led by myself beginning at 5.00pm.

I warmly encourage any and all prospective students to join us.

Review of Assessment at Mercy

As part of the College's School Improvement Plan priorities, our teaching and learning team has identified quality assessment as a key plank by which students' learning outcomes can be improved. Over many years overwhelming evidence has argued that for students to make ongoing improvement in their learning outcomes (regardless of their individual academic capacity), assessment needs to be formative as well as summative. That is, students need to be aware of how they are going in a unit of work or with the uptake of a set of skills during the learning not just afterwards.

In fact, recent work by world-famous Australian educational researcher, John Hattie has identified meaningful feedback between teachers and students as one of the most important effective ways of improving student learning outcomes. This is also a core plank of the Professional Learning Community model that has been embraced by each of the HCSN primary schools in recent years. Mercy Regional College is already using this on Simon (PAM) where teacher provide students with feedback on tasks and students write reflections on what they did well and how they can improve in future.

Reflecting the importance of this strategy, a committee of staff has been exploring the effectiveness of our current assessment regime at Mercy Regional College and, in particular, the use of semester exams for core subjects at Years 7 – 10. Currently students complete an end of semester exam in each core subject (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and French) from the end of Year 7 onwards. This committee has recommended moving away from such a heavy emphasis on exams that, to a significant extent, only provides summative assessment.

Last term, I commenced discussions with the College Board and the Mercy Parents' Consultative Group on this proposal and this term we hope to engage the broader Mercy community in the discussion also. Opportunities to engage will include through a display that will be in play at next week's Parent Teacher Interviews, a special Assessment at Mercy booklet that will be distributed to each family in the next couple of weeks and parent focus groups that will be held over afternoon tea at each campus.

In the short term, the College is giving serious consideration to the following changes:

- Removing the end of year exams at Year 7
- Removing the mid-year exams at Year 8
- Enforcing a much stronger and consistent feedback regime with respect to formal student assessments

Parents and members of our school community who would like to be involved in these discussions are welcome to see Mrs. Tania Bruckner, Mr. Chris Grant or myself at next week's PTIs or contact us directly through the College on 5593 2011.

Staff and Student Activities

Amongst the activities and achievements that have kicked off this term are:



- Congratulations to the Year 8 students and staff who are currently on camp at Princetown.

Hopefully the overnight rain has not dampened spirits too much.

- Also away this week were the Outdoor Education 3-4 students who completed an overnight camp at Sovereign Hill and the Grampians.
- Sport continues with students involved in golf, AFL and motocross in the first couple of weeks.
- Congratulations to the students who represented Mercy at the Mount Emu Creek Dressage challenge finishing 3rd overall.
- Social justice activities continue to have a high profile across the College with collection of clothes for our local SVDP conferences and the upcoming Shave for a Cure day.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2 - 2017

Monday 24th April

- Staff PD – no school for students

Tuesday 25th April

- Anzac Day Public Holiday – no school

Wednesday 26th April

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

Thursday 27th April

- Year 7 Immunisations

Wednesday 3rd May

- Staff PD Day – Student Free Day
- MRC Open afternoon/evening

Thursday 4th May

- House Cross-country

Friday 5th May

- Inter-school Grasstrack Competition

Tuesday 9th May – Thursday 11th May

- NAPLAN

Monday 15th May

- MRC Board Meeting

Friday 19th May

- HSSSD Cross Country

Wednesday 24th May

- Mercy Feast Day Mass 9:30am in the Stadium

Monday 29th May

- Try a Career Day



MERCY
Regional College

OPEN DAY

O'Keeffe Junior Campus, McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat

Wednesday 3rd May, 2017
3.00pm – 6.30pm



We invite all prospective parents and students to attend our Open Day from 3.00pm.
Grade 5 students are encouraged to attend.

Interactive displays for Students

Domain based activities for Students.
Discover RE, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities,
Sport, Technology (Wood, Food & The Arts).

Parent Registrations

Campus Tours

Afternoon Tea

Information Session @ 5.00pm

College Prospectus and Enrolment Forms distributed on the day

Enrolment applications for 2018

Close on Friday 16th June, 2017

For further information, please contact Mrs. Sue Bohm at the College office

Phone: (03) 5593 2011

Email office@mercy.vic.edu.au

Learning to Care, Caring to Learn

From the Business Manager

Mrs. Jude Murfitt

Please see letter below from the Department of Education and Training regarding the 2017 Student Residential Address collection of data.

This data is provided to the Department by the school, through the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, the Department is able to request this data under section 21 of the Australian Education Regulation 2013. If you have any concerns or issues with this data request, please contact the Department (SES Helpdesk) on 1800 677 027 (Option 4) or alternatively via email at seshelpdesk@education.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

2017 Student Residential Address Collection

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department), to advise you that the department has requested your child's school provide a *statement of addresses*, in accordance with section 21 of the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the Regulation).

A *statement of addresses* contains the following three pieces of information about students at the school:

- Students' residential address (**not student names or other identifying information**)
- Students' level of education (i.e. whether the student is receiving primary or secondary education)
- Students' boarding school status (boarders or day students)

Authority for and Purpose of Collection

Consistent with previous practice, and following the *2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics National Census of Population and Housing (Census)*, it is timely that information held by the department is updated in order to ensure that Australian Government funding calculations for your child's school are accurate.

Under section 21 of the Regulation, a *statement of addresses* **must not explicitly identify an individual student**. Accordingly, all information in the *statement of addresses* provided by your child's school to the department is de-identified.

Use and Disclosure of Information

It is important to ensure the *statements of addresses* are accurate, and the department may from time to time carry out audits of *statements of addresses* to verify their accuracy. In the event of an audit, the department's contracted auditors may seek to compare a school's *statement of addresses* with student enrolment information held by the school for the purpose of verifying the information. The department's contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

Any further use and disclosure of information relating to the *statement of addresses* will occur in accordance with section 65 of the Regulation.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you can contact the department by:

- Email: seshelpdesk@education.gov.au
- Phone (free call): SES helpdesk on 1800 677 027 (Option 4)

For further information about the department, including the department's privacy policy, please go to: <https://education.gov.au>.

Opportunity through learning

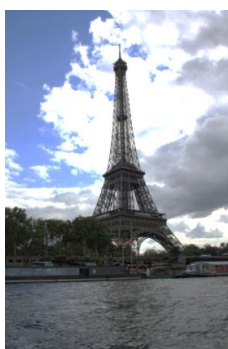
50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601
GPO Box 9880, Canberra ACT 2601 | Phone (02) 6121 6000

Parent Teacher Interviews & Interim Reports

Interim reports have been released online and are available to parents through the Parent Access Module (PAM). Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 26th April from 11.00am – 7.00pm in the de Chantal Stadium, Camperdown. Bookings can be made through PAM. If you are experiencing issues logging in to PAM, please contact the College Reception on 5593 2011.

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**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.

Careers Report

Mrs. Jenny Phillips

Tertiary Information Service (TIS) Tour

The Tertiary Information (TIS) Tour came to MRC on Thursday 30th March. It provided Year 12 students access to 19 tertiary providers based in Victoria. The session began with a presentation which gave students an overview of their post-school options and then outlined the process for applying for tertiary studies.

Following the presentation, students had the opportunity to meet with the tertiary institution representations to collect course information and ask questions.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students to gain valuable information from a wide range of institutions without having to leave the school grounds.



Important Information for Year 9s preparing for Year 10 Work Experience

Throughout this year, Year 9 students will be organising their Work Experience for early in 2018.

Students need to be aware that if they apply to a local business for WE and are asked to organise their week's work through the Warrnambool and District Schools Work Experience Program, this organisation will charge them \$90 for the service.

If students are asked to contact the Warrnambool and District Schools Work Experience Program for their WE and do not wish to incur this charge, they should consult with Mr. Richardson, Mrs. Phillips, or Mr. Baker.

Don't forget to check out the Weekly Careers News:

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



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Mercy Regional College is excited to be participating.

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 8th September 2017.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll. If you would like your child's name to appear on the Honour Roll, please sign the form below and return it to the school library.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

Year 7 & 8 students will have the opportunity to sign up for the Challenge on Monday May 1 at the O'Keeffe Campus, while Year 9 & 10 students may do so on Tuesday May 2 in the McAuley library.

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Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge Online Honour Roll

Yes, I consent to my child's name appearing on the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge online Honour Roll.

Name of student:

Parent Signature:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Definitions: *Department* refers to the Victorian Department of Education and Training, *Person* refers to the child/adult listed above in the consent declaration.

1) Privacy Protection.

The Department takes its privacy obligations seriously and any personal information collected or used by the Department will be handled in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic). This law sets out what we must do when the Department collects, uses, handles and destroys personal information. Personal information includes personal details such as an individual's name and school that could be used to identify an individual.

2) Collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information.

If you provide your consent your school will collect and disclose your child's first and last name, and the name of the school to the Department. The Department will then:

- Publish your child's name on its online Honour Roll located at: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc at the completion of the Challenge with no other identifying factors such as early childhood setting name.

3) Accuracy, access to information and withdrawal of consent.

The Department will endeavour to ensure that any personal information held about your child is up to date and accurate. You can access, correct and withdraw personal information held by the Department by written request in accordance with the Department's Information Privacy Policy located at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/privacypolicy.aspx>

Consent may be withdrawn at any time by writing to the Department's Privacy Unit on: privacy.enquiries@edumail.vic.gov.au

If you have any questions about this form, or if you need more information, please contact the PRC Challenge Coordinator at the Department readingchallenge@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9637 3624.

The Flash-Narrative Story

by Phoebe Harrison (7C)

A flash is all it was, but everyone had disappeared.

I had been searching since yesterday afternoon, rationing my food (which was only meant for one school day), looking for a sign of where everybody went. I had searched all the houses, even the old bakery and school! I needed to go to Camperdown, but I needed water first.

I was in a garden of a house beside the school, and then it hit me- The school bubble taps!

I clambered over the corrugated iron fence, giving myself palms cuts in the process, though I didn't care enough for it to stop me. I dropped down onto the other side, using my hands to soften the fall, even though it made them sting.

I jogged over to the welcoming water station. As I pushed the lever down a small amount of water trickled out. *It's not much, but it'll do.* I hung my head over the contraption and continued to until I was satisfied. I wiped my mouth on my sleeve and cleaned off my cut hands.

"OFF TO CAMPERDOWN!" I yelled to myself. I ran over to my once-full-of-noisy-students room and walked in.

I feel so lonely... God, I hope everyone's okay. I brushed it off and strode over to my 'locker', which was really just a wooden box, shoved my belongings in my bag, making sure it was done up and began my walk.

I was barely out of the front gate when a sparrow darted over and hopped around at my feet.

"You hungry?" I whispered, being sure not to frighten it. It continued to hop.

"Okay then." I slowly sat down and brought my lunchbox out of my bag. The sparrow chirruped, practically begging for food by now. I tore a tiny piece of bread off my half-eaten sandwich and chucked it in the direction of the bird. It pecked at the food a few times before picking it up in its beak, giving me a strange look, and then flying off into a nearby tree.

"Uh, you're welcome?"

I shrugged it off and kept walking. A magpie cawed at me from a huge tree.

"CAW CAW CAW RIGHT BACK AT YA!" I yelled, I wasn't actually angry, but I was simply bored. It didn't reply, so I once again continued walking.

There seemed to be barely audible crunching of gravel and a conversation behind me, I spun around, alarmed, to find I was all alone. *I could've sworn I heard something. Either that or I'm going insane...*

Surprisingly, the rest of the walk wasn't really that boring at all. My mind drifted off to who-knows-what and back, as long as I had stuff to think about as I was walking (which I always did), I was entertained.

I yawned as I reached the bridge, reminding me of how horribly I had slept last night, it was on the floor with a beanbag for a pillow, so that made sense. I rubbed my eyes and continued to walk when I saw... A CAR?! *I'm not alone! There are still people around!* My back was quite sweaty by now from having the bag on it, though it didn't bother me.

After an hour or two of walking, Camperdown came into sight, making me walk faster, straight to Saint Pat's. As I got there, I ran to the 5/6 wing and up the stairs, opening 5/6 M's door. I was puffing like crazy. All the students looked at me with 'what the hell' looks on their faces.

"Phoebe? What's going on?" Elise put down her whiteboard marker.

"Something's happened at Noorat!"



Learner Drivers - are you finding it hard to get your 120 hours of driving experience?
The L2P Program may be able to help you.

About the L2P Program

Under the VicRoads graduated licence system, learner drivers are required to complete 120 hours of driving experience before they can obtain a drivers licence. Sometimes young people find it difficult to get access to a fully licensed driver or a suitable car or both, in order to complete this driving experience.

The L2P program may be able to help by matching young people with fully licensed volunteer mentors and provide access to a sponsored vehicle, which they can use to get supervised driving experience. L2P is free for eligible young people and is funded by the Transport Accident Commission and managed by VicRoads.

The Program does not substitute for professional driving lessons and L2P does not pay for the probationary driving test itself.

To join the Program you need to meet the following criteria:

- be between 16 and 20 years of age
- hold a current learner's permit
- not have access to either a vehicle, a supervising driver, or both.

If you are interested please contact Claire Walsh on 5593 2011 or cwalsh@mercy.vic.edu.au

A referral will be sent on your behalf to the L2P Co-ordinator, Belinda who will contact you directly if you meet the criteria.



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.

A box of chocolates was sent home last term. The boxes are pre-packed and contain 50 items for sale at \$1 each. A labelled envelope and a payment slip are 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 26th May** at the latest. Alternatively, you can complete the payment slip below and return it to the Office.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Darren Egberts
Principal

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CHOCOLATE DRIVE 2017

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

I HAVE MADE PAYMENT DIRECT TO THE COLLEGE BANK ACCOUNT:

BSB: 083-526 Account Number: 528899931 Date Paid: ____/____/____

I ENCLOSE 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 26th May 2017

THANK YOU

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Camperdown Theatre Company
proudly presents
in 2017

Seussical™

A musical extravaganza for all ages!

May 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
All 7.30pm (& 1.00pm on 13th) at Theatre Royal, Camperdown

Adults: \$30 | Student/Concession: \$25 | Child (15&U): \$20
Family (2 adults, 2 children): \$90

Tickets at Laffs: 163 Manifold St, Camperdown | Phone 5593 1469
or online at www.camperdowntheatrecompany.com.au

Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY **Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS**
Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle
Based on the works of Dr. Seuss
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

Director: Toby McKenzie | Choreographer: Martinique McKenzie | Musical Director: Jane McSweeney



Fun4Kids Festival: 5th - 9th July, 2017

Fun4Kids Festival 2017 volunteer registrations are now open! There are many different ways which you can be involved.

Secondary School Students who wish to volunteer must be 14 years of age or over at the start of this year's Festival.

There is a variety of workshop areas in which to volunteer – art and craft areas, animation, painting, cooking, face painting or woodwork! Rosters are flexible and you will receive a t-shirt and lunch on your volunteer day!

Register via the website <http://www.fun4kids.com.au/volunteers> or contact Stephanie, Events and Promotions Coordinator to send out a registration pack via mail shargreaves@warrnambool.vic.gov.au 03 5559 4834.

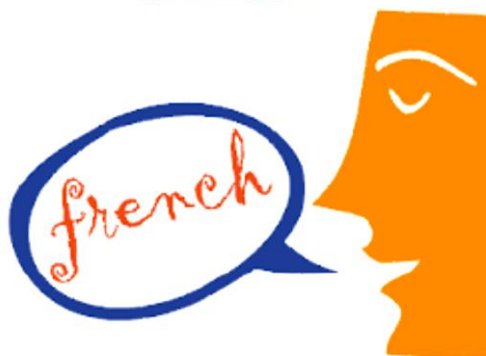


...a French Poetry recitation competition you might be interested in!

Every year the Alliance Française holds a poetry recitation competition for students of French across Victoria. The competition is being offered to Mercy students in years 7 to 9, who would like to have a French challenge!



You will receive coaching at school in learning your year level's poem and will compete via Skype. Students will recite their poem in early June and will be independently assessed by judges from the Alliance Française.



If you are interested in taking up a challenge and want to improve your French and public speaking skills - contact Mme Macleod by email to express your interest, obtain a copy of your year level's poem choices and register to enter the competition.



smacleod@mercy.vic.edu.au