

MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2-2

Friday 5th May, 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".

Last week saw the commemoration of ANZAC Day across our nation and overseas and as in every previous year the senselessness and tragedy of war is my overriding memory. In memory of the sacrifice of so many today's prayer is the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*". Universally recognised in association with the Western Front, it is a war poem written during the First World War by Canadian physician Major John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



I would also like to thank the many Mercy Regional College students, parents and friends who took part in the various dawn and morning commemorative services that were held around our district; there is no better testament to the fallen than this.



Mercy Regional College Open Night

Yesterday, the College opened its O'Keeffe Campus for our annual Open Night where prospective Mercy students, their parents and families are invited to engage with the school and experience what a Mercy education has to offer. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, this year's Open Night was very different to previous years with a much greater focus on providing prospective students with engaging and interactive experiences across each of the Domains and subjects offered at Mercy Regional College. For the first time, we also actively encouraged Grade 5 students to join us as they begin to consider their pathway into secondary education.

The evening was an outstanding success with the O'Keeffe Campus full of excited and energised children as well as parents, siblings and Mercy staff. We were blessed with fine weather and students had a wonderful time making their way around each of the different activities offered. From the student's feedback, the most frequented appeared to be Health and PE, Science, The Arts and STEM plus the ever popular Food Technology.

Thanks from me to all families who attended on the night and particularly to my staff who worked extremely hard over recent weeks to achieve the successes seen last night.

Families who were not able to attend last night's Open Night are invited to make contact with the College through Mrs. Sue Bohm if you would like to receive an enrolment information pack and application form. Contact can be made on 5593 2011 or on email through sue@mercy.vic.edu.au.

A reminder that the College's McAuley Campus will be on show on Monday 22nd and Friday 26th May when we host Open Mornings; students and families will have the opportunity to tour our Camperdown campus and see the school at work. Full details will be available on the Mercy website early next week.



Social Media Concerns

Yesterday, I sent a letter to parents of all Year 11 students outlining the College's concerns about a number of very serious issues involving social media that we have seen and have been dealing with in recent weeks. These issues have included the most concerning and widespread abuses of social media that we have seen at Mercy Regional College. They have involved many of our students in Year 11 plus some Year 10 and 12 students. Our senior wellbeing staff have spent a great deal of time with students and parents involved but resolution has been difficult.

As a result, we have made two decisions:

- Parents with concerns about any further incidents will be encouraged to take these directly to the police; and
- No Year 11 students will be permitted to be in the possession of a mobile phone during the school day for a period of two weeks starting Monday 8th May. Students who require a phone for before or after school communications will need to leave that phone with senior staff at the start of day. Failure to follow these rules will result in the phone being confiscated. We will review the ban after the fortnight has passed.

I encourage any parents with concerns regarding the misuse of social media to look to the excellent resources available from the authorities and experts online. One useful website is that of the eSafety Commissioner, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Arrival of Fr Neville Stanislaus

As I write, the new Parish Priest for Camperdown and Timboon/Simpson has just arrived in town to be met by a day of beautiful winter sunshine. Fr Neville will begin to say parish masses this weekend and we look forward to welcoming him more fully into our community at upcoming College events.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for Years 7 & 9 will be held next week from Tuesday, 9th May until Thursday 11th May 2016. The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about your child's performance in literacy and numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve student achievement. All students are encouraged to participate in the NAPLAN tests.

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual or complex disabilities. If your child is eligible for a special provision or exemption you should make contact with Mr Chris Grant to discuss your child's participation. Neither special provisions nor exemptions can be granted without parental knowledge and consent.

I encourage all students to do their best in these important tests which provide valuable feedback to parents, children and to us as a school.

Parking around McAuley Campus

It was brought to my attention earlier this week that there have been a number of complaints from nearby residents about parking in and around McAuley Campus – cars parked over driveways etc. A number of special functions at Mercy as well as at St Patrick's in recent weeks may have brought these into focus.

However, these complaints have gone to the local police and I understand that they will be enforcing the pre-existing parking restrictions more rigorously in the next few weeks.

I encourage any parents who are picking or dropping off children to take care to respect the restrictions that are in place.

2017 Mercy Showcase

Following the great successes of the Mercy Showcase (2013) and *High School Musical* (2015), we are delighted to announce that August will see the 2017 Mercy Showcase on stage at Camperdown's Theatre Royal. It will provide a wonderful opportunity to highlight the extraordinary musical, dramatic and dance capabilities of our students.

Interested students are warmly encouraged to contact Showcase Director, Mrs. Freya Egberts by email at fegberts@mercy.vic.edu.au for an audition pack.\

Auditions open on Sunday 21st May.

Student and Staff Activities

Recent weeks have seen a number of significant activities by students and staff both in school and in the broader community:

- Yesterday saw the running of the College's annual Cross-country at the O'Keeffe Campus with students making their way around the base of Mt. Noorat. Congratulations to all involved.
- On Tuesday, both campuses saw students strongly supporting those with Leukaemia and blood cancer in the annual Shave for a Cure. Special congratulations to Isabel Rowan (9A) and Sam Baker (7B) who had their heads shaved as part of the event.
- Thank you to the many parents and students who took advantage of last week's Parent Teacher Interviews. Although it was a very cold day, the talk and noise inside the de Chantal Stadium was fantastic to hear.
- Good luck to all cast and crew members in the Camperdown Theatre Company's production of *Seussical* which opens tonight (Friday) in Camperdown. A number of past and present Mercy students and staff are involved and I'm sure that the many, many hours of rehearsals will bear fruit in an amazing show.

Yours in Mercy,



DR. DARREN EGBERTS
PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2 - 2017

Tuesday 9th May – Thursday 11th May

- NAPLAN

Friday 12th May

- Unit 1 & 3 Studio Excursion to Melbourne

Monday 15th May

- MRC Board Meeting

Friday 19th May

- HSSSD Cross Country

Monday 22nd May

- HCSN Combined Boards' Dinner 7pm McAuley Campus

Wednesday 24th May

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

Thursday 25th May

- Year 9 Football
- Year 7/8 Girls Netball

Monday 29th May

- Try a Career Day

Tuesday 30th May

- Unit 1 & 3 Legal Excursion
- HSSSD Senior Netball

'13 Reasons Why' series

There are growing concerns about the recent series of '13 Reasons Why' and the impact it can have on a young person's wellbeing. Below we will outline general information for both young people and their parents if concerns arise.

- Young people may have feelings of distress after watching the show- these feelings are normal.
- Give young people the opportunity to talk through their emotional responses to the show and how they can manage these feelings. Be alert to at risk young people that might need additional support.
- Remind young people to be sensitive to the feelings of others when discussing suicide, including on social media, given the impact that detailed descriptions of suicide can have on at risk young people.
- Suicide is not a common or helpful response to life's challenges, and that there are always better ways to deal with problems, no matter how hopeless they may seem.
- Feelings of distress are valid and warrant support, whether there is a specific reason for these feelings or not.

Support is widely available for students at Mercy- at both campus', please encourage your child(ren) to use these supports in place

*Research shows that young people can often be reluctant to seek professional help and need to be encouraged to seek support from appropriate sources.
Failure to seek help can significantly delay a person's recovery.*

If a young person is distressed and in need of support, they can call or visit:

- **Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) or kidshelpline.com.au**
- **eHeadspace (1800 650 890) or eheadspace.org.au**
- **Lifeline (13 11 14) of lifeline.org.au**

Sports Report

Mr. Matt Harkin

Golf

It's been a very busy start to the term on the sport scene at Mercy, with plenty more to come as the term goes on.

We had 14 students travel to Ararat to play in the regional golf tournament. All students competed well with some pleasing individual results including. Depending how other results go around other districts, some of these students may go onto the state competition.

<u>Year 7-9</u> 2nd - George Beasley 3rd - Henry Kenna 5th - Oli Darcy	<u>Year 10-12</u> 1st - Hamish huffadine 2nd - Hayden Brett 5th- Ben Toose
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Senior Football

Our senior footballers played very well last week against Brauer College, final scores were Mercy 15.6 (96) def Brauer 6.8 (44)

Goals: Sid Bradshaw 3, Louis Cain, Ben O'Sullivan, Matty Kemp, Harry Darcy 2, Lachie Davis, Luke Justin, Josh Bone, Tom Grey.

Best: Josh Bone, Matty Kemp, Ben O'Sullivan, Zac Green, Harry O'Sullivan, Dom Cunningham

We now move to round 2 to play Trinity College at a time to be confirmed.



House Cross Country

On Thursday we had our house cross country that was a successful event. In glorious Noorat weather student participation was high and performances were fantastic. More importantly Ryan house were successful in winning!

Overall results were:

Ryan - 220

Frayne - 199

Tindley - 194

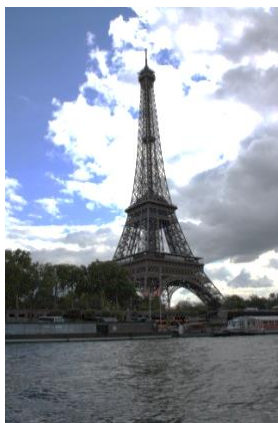
Markey – 135

Individual champions were:

U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U20
Susanna Ryan Lachie Herschell	Rachel Kerr Louis Darcy	Amy Vogels Oliver Darcy	Tully Watt Zach Sinnott	Ebony Davis Nick O'Connor	Claudia Lee Louis Cain



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.

Australian Defence Force Presentation

On Wednesday 19th April, MRC hosted a presentation by the ADF Recruiting Team members, Graham Joce and Daniel McInnes. This was a great opportunity for interested students to find out about the many and varied career pathways available through the ADF. The session was very informative and gave students the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the presenters.

Study Skills – Deakin University Warrnambool

Also on Wednesday 19th April, Year 12 students were offered the opportunity to attend a Study Skills session run by Jenna McMeel, the student recruitment co-ordinator at Deakin University in Warrnambool. Jenna led the students through a number of activities, designed to enable them to maximise the learning outcomes from their study time.

Meet University of Melbourne in Warrnambool details (See Flyer on next page)

Tuesday 9th May 2017 – 6:00PM to 8:30PM

Venue: Lighthouse Theatre, Lighthouse Studio, 185 Timor Street, Warrnambool, Victoria.

Schedule

6.00pm – 6.30pm: Arrival & Registration

6.30pm – 8.00pm: Presentation

8.00pm – 8.30pm: Q&A session

Register now online via <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/7f66>

Monash University Information Evening near you

Monash University will be conducting an information evening in Geelong on 27th July from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. On the night, you will be able to find out everything you need to know about studying at Monash including: course offerings, entry requirements, international opportunities, scholarships SEAS & the Monash guarantee and accommodations options.

Register on the website to secure your place:

<http://www.monash.edu/information-evenings>

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 (12th to 16th February).

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



Meet Melbourne in Warrnambool

Tuesday 9 May 2017



Information session for prospective students and their families.

The University of Melbourne will be visiting Warrnambool to give students, teachers and parents in the area the chance to meet our friendly staff and find out more about:

- Courses and career outcomes, including the Melbourne curriculum with its many breadth opportunities and unique graduate pathways
- Opportunities to enrich your degree such as studying a concurrent diploma, taking on an Internship, or going on exchange
- Housing options, scholarships and student services
- Access Melbourne, our special entry and access scheme, which offers guaranteed entry to eligible students from rural and regional areas, and those with a disadvantaged financial background
- Information for Indigenous students.

Event details:

Date: Tuesday 9 May 2017
Time: 6:30pm – 8.30pm
Venue: Lighthouse Theatre
Lighthouse Studio
185 Timor Street
Warrnambool, Victoria

Register online:

▶ futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelb2017

For more information:

✉ nathan.mclean@unimelb.edu.au
▶ futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au
f facebook.com/melbuni
t twitter.com/Unimelb
▶ youtube.com/unimelb



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: _____
(Youngest child attending the College)

Home Room: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: (please print) _____

Please return payment to the College office by Friday 26th May 2017

THANK YOU

NOTICES

St·Colman's·Parish·Mortlake¶
A·Memorial·Mass·¶
&·Light·Tea·will·be·held·to
celebrate·the·life·of·¶

Sr·Margaret·Houlihan¶

¶
Tuesday·16th·May·
5.30pm·in¶
St·Colman's·Church¶

¶
All·Parishioners·&·the·wider·
Community·are·welcome.

ICE

GET THE FACTS, DEVELOP
STRATEGIES & FIND OUT WHERE
TO ACCESS HELP & SUPPORT



BREAKTHROUGH 
Ice education for families

Register for a free session in your area at:
www.turningpoint.org.au/education/breakthrough

1800 ICE ADVICE: **1800 423 238** | Family Drug Helpline: **1300 660 068**

**Camperdown Football
Club: 15 May
6-9pm**



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 McSween