

# MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 1-3**

**9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

## **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 2018**

"Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference".

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Yesterday was International Women's Day, a celebration of all that women have achieved over the past few decades and a reminder of the work still to be done to ensure that women and girls receive equitable treatment in all things – wages, education, access to health care. My prayer today highlights the challenges that girls and women may face:

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the woman reading this prayer right now.*

*Thank you for her heart.*

*May you bless her right now.*

*Fill her with incredible peace.*

*Wrap her in your love.*

*May she feel confident and worthy.*

*I pray that she grows closer to you every day.*

*Fuel a desire deep within her to seek after you.*

*I pray that she is able to lead a life after the example Christ set.*

*May she face everything with courage and may she walk in integrity.*

*Help her with anything she is struggling with,*

*surround her with encouragement, and give her your precious wisdom.*

*May she experience joy today in Jesus' name.*

*Amen.*

## **Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Project**

Over the next two months, parents will join Mercy Regional College staff and students in having the opportunity to complete the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Project surveys. The ECSI project is an important project that has been used across all Victorian Catholic schools to evaluate how effectively we are maintaining our core purpose – that is, to be Catholic schools that provide opportunities for students and staff to grow into fully human persons.

Until the development of the ECSI project and the surveys that underpin it, Catholic schools found it almost impossible to get meaningful evidence on how effectively we were achieving this. However, more than ten years of data and discussion have resulted in a robust and comprehensive set of tools that all schools and the Catholic education system more broadly can rely upon.

Next week, I will send home details and a covering letter that explains the ECSI process and its importance as well as details on how parents can complete the online surveys.

## **MRC Learning and Teaching Updates**

As part of our ongoing review of learning and teaching at Mercy, a number of changes will occur in 2018. The changes I want to outline in this newsletter reflect a fundamental principle: *The importance of students, teachers and parents receiving comprehensive, timely and honest feedback about the learning that is occurring for each student. All learning and teaching strategies including assessment must allow for this to occur.*

Research is clear that sustained improvement for all students requires dialogue and feedback between teacher/student and student/teacher throughout a unit of work. If this feedback is left until the completion of a unit (such as after a topic test or another type of summative task), little reflection is possible by students or teacher about what has been learned or what improvement has been achieved. Teaching can be more directly targeted to student learning needs if assessment and feedback occurs regularly throughout the year.

The essence of high quality teaching and learning is clear identification of the learning priorities within each subject unit and task so that both the teacher and student can assess how effectively these priorities have been achieved. Setting clear priorities is a matter of course for small businesses, sporting clubs, even family finances but have often been lacking in schools.

This year, we will complete our changes to assessment at Years 7 – 10 with Year 9 students no longer required to complete mid-year examinations and Year 8 student no longer completing end-of-year examinations. Rather, teachers will continue to focus on providing rich and personalised assessment tasks designed to engage students more effectively on learning improvement and providing opportunities for dialogue throughout each task. Students at all year levels will continue to complete a range of tasks under tests and examination conditions to ensure that the fundamental skills of revision and working to a time deadline are practised.

The College is also reviewing the model of student reports that parents and students receive at the end of each semester. There has been feedback that both parents and teachers are frustrated at the lack of personalisation in previous year's reports. We are currently exploring a new report format that will provide explicit feedback to students and parents on students' achievements during the semester without the need for generic comments. Parent engagement in the education process is a key factor in students improving outcomes with the Parent Access Model (PAM) providing direct access to assessments, comments and student reflections. I will publicise these changes as they are confirmed early next term.

### **Mercy Parents' Consultative Group**

Over the last few years, I have been privileged to work with a group of parents from across our region in the Mercy Parents Consultative Group (PCG). This group comes together once a term to provide advice to the Principal on issues currently under discussion in school, to offer suggestions on areas of improvement and to continue to build the fundamental partnership between parents, families and school.

Our first meeting for 2018 is being held on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the McAuley Campus Board Room from 5.00 – 6.30pm**. The group is open to any Mercy parents and I would love to see a number of parents representing students new to Mercy join us. Please contact me at the College if you would like further details or just turn up on the night.

### **2018 Presentation Ball**

Last Friday night, many weeks of hard work and preparation paid off as we celebrated the 2018 Mercy Regional College Presentation Ball. Our Year 11 girls and boys looked fantastic as they were presented and then danced at Glenormiston College initially as partners and then with their parents and special friends. As I said on the night, it is a unique celebration for Mercy and one that reinforces the importance of family and community to all present.

Special thanks to the many staff and parents who worked to make the evening a success and special thanks to our dance instructors, Colin and Yvonne Langley, as well as our Ball Coordinators, Tash Swain and Tracey Baker who were ably supported by Rose Henry.



### **Behaviour on Buses**

Given that more than 95% of Mercy students use buses to get to and from school each day, the conduct of students on these buses is critical. Since the end of 2017 and in the early part of this year, we have seen an increase in complaints from bus drivers and students on buses about a small number of other students who are misbehaving. The College has clear guidelines regarding behaviour on buses with these guidelines reflecting the PTV Code of Conduct; students who routinely behave inappropriately on buses risk losing their right to bus travel.

### **Principal's Leave**

Ahead of the upcoming Easter season and school holidays, my family and I will be taking a short period of leave in Canberra and the Victorian Alps. I will be away from the College from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March until the school holidays. Mrs. Berni Sinnott and Mrs. Claire Wrigley will be Acting Co-Principals in my absence.

### **Student Achievements**

With the Labour Day long weekend ahead of us, it is timely to highlight the achievements of those in our community:

- Special congratulations to all students and staff who participated in the Corangamite Shire's Relay for Life last month. In particular, those who supported Gracie's Flutterbies were recognised as the best themed team on the night; an appropriate celebration of our departed friend, Grace Howard.
- Good luck to all students who have competitions or activities over the long weekend and especially to those competing for Mercy Regional College at today's Mt Emu Creek Equestrian Meet.

Yours in Mercy,



**DR. DARREN EGBERTS**  
PRINCIPAL

## **COMING DATES**

### **TERM 1**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**Labour Day**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Year 10 Immunisation

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

MRC Athletics Carnival  
MRC Board AGM Meeting

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> - Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Year 8 Princetown Camp

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

GWR Swimming

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Cambodia Immersion Trip  
Departs

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

HSSSD Athletics

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Term 1 Concludes**  
**@ 2:15pm**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**Good Friday**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**Easter Sunday**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Cambodia Immersion Trip  
returns

### **TERM 2**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**Term 2 Commences**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**Anzac Day**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

Open Day

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

MRC Cross Country

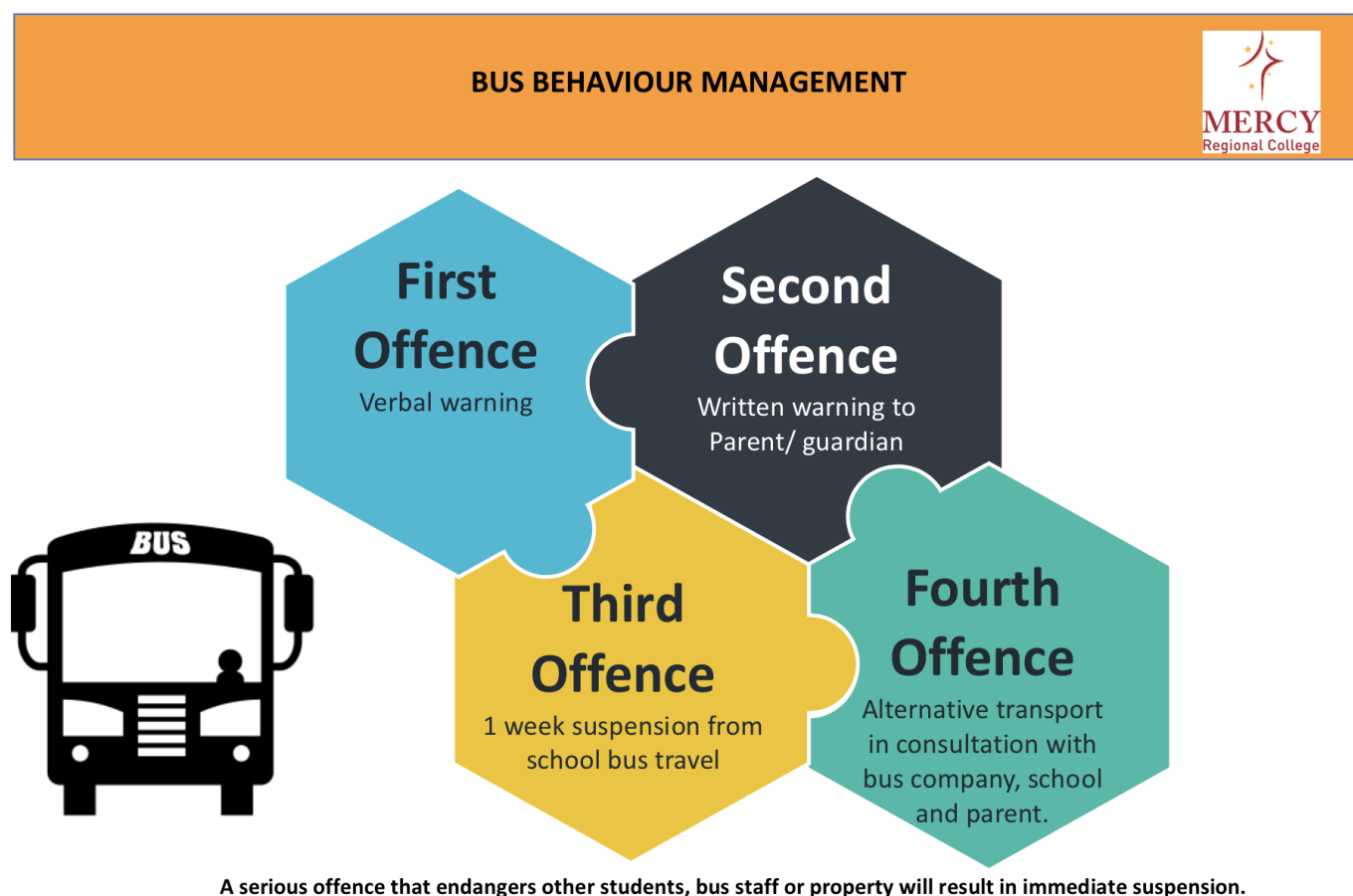
## From the Assistant Principal – Staff & Students

Mrs. Claire Wrigley

The majority of our students travel to and from school by bus. While this is a great system at times there are some challenges and it is important that students are aware of our expectations.

We expect that Mercy College students are respectful and behave in a manner that ensures safety for all those travelling on the bus. Students are expected to wear seat belts and remain in their seats at all times while the bus is in motion. Students are to keep noise levels at reasonable standard so that the driver can drive the bus safely and without distraction.

Below are the steps we follow with a student if we receive a bus complaint and repeated complaints.



## Social Justice Team Report

Greetings from the Social Justice Team! Halfway through Term 1, and we are getting the gears going in our meetings!

Project Compassion, run through CARITAS Australia, is in full swing. We've had massive success from our Noorat Campus through their fundraising; selling icy poles every Thursday. Keep up the great work guys! Also, congratulations to Skye Baran and Jo Deane for their appointment of Junior Social Justice Captains.

Over at Camperdown, we are getting a deal of support from the student body; each homeroom looking to fundraise in some way or another. Every cent counts, so thank you all for the massive support. The team's big fundraiser is CARITAS K's, to be held on our Athletics Day (March 20<sup>th</sup>). Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in homeroom tubs, more details will follow for those keen.

The first 3 weeks of Project Compassion have focused on 3 very different, but very appealing stories. Week 1 told Janaki's story, a young entrepreneur from Nepal who has turned her life around, and become an inspirational leader in her community. Week 2 looked to Cambodia, and the story of the barber Rattanak, who contracted polio at a young age, and became deaf. Week 3 travelled to Jordan, where 12-year-old Bayan, a keen student born in Damascus, Syria, now aspiring to be an ophthalmologist. These stories are the foundation of what CARITAS is; helping people help themselves.

If you are interested in coming to our meetings, feel free! We are always open to new ideas, and it's great seeing so much support. Until next time!

Tate Tregea-Copeland

### **UNIFORM SHOP NOTICE**

In preparation for the commencement of Term 2, the uniform shop will be open on:

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
from 3:00pm – 5:40pm**

Parents will be able to purchase winter uniform items that your child may require for next term.

Regards  
**Nicola Fletcher**



## Career News

*Mrs. Jenny Phillips*

### **Year 11 Camp Reports**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> February, the Year 11s departed for a three camp to Melbourne. Whilst the camp had a predominantly careers based theme, the students also visited the Holocaust Centre as a follow up to their Year 10 History studies.

#### **Erin McLean**

On Day One of the Year 11 Camp, I had the opportunity to visit Deakin University in Geelong, where we had a presentation and a tour, before continuing on to Melbourne. On arriving in Melbourne, we took our bags to the Youth Hostel before my group visited RMIT.

That evening, a large group of us went to Eureka Skydeck prior to having dinner on Southbank. The next day we went to the Holocaust Museum and ACU. The holocaust museum was truly moving and inspiring, and being able to meet a survivor was a once in a life-time experience. That night we had all went ten-pin bowling in the City before having pizza/pasta at a nice restaurant on Lygon Street and spending time in the park nearby. On the last day, we went to PSC and completed some photo challenges. We then made the mad dash to the train station and caught the train to Geelong where we met the buses and drove home. It was a great experience to see some more options of further study and was a good opportunity to start thinking about our futures.



#### **Imogen Marsland**

Who knew visiting universities and institutes would be such an eye opening and interesting experience? The Year 11's spent three days visiting various universities and institutes in Geelong and Melbourne that between them, offer an enormous range of courses and degrees. It gave us great insight into what different universities have to offer and the courses available for us in the future. It gave many of us ideas for future career paths we may wish to pursue. I am interested in going into the health field, specifically paramedicine and from this experience, ACU appealed to me the most.

When we weren't visiting different institutes, we went to the Eureka Sky deck, Hard Rock Climbing and the Holocaust Museum. At the Holocaust Museum, we had the privilege of meeting a survivor who shared her terrifying but remarkable story with us.

Over all, this was a terrific camp that gave many of us ideas and goals to aim for.

### **Swinburne University Early Leaders Program**

The Early Leaders Program (ELP) provides Year 11 students with the chance to build on their strengths, be recognised for their extracurricular activities, and develop the skills and experience to give them an edge in today's competitive job market.

Participants are encouraged to identify and analyse their learning experiences – both in and out of the classroom – and will complete the program with a portfolio of skills to help them pursue tertiary education or employment.

Year 11 students Elena and Tara both loved the opportunity ELP gave them to narrow down their career aspirations and build their university-level writing skills. [Hear their thoughts on the program.](#)

Applications for the 2018 ELP are **now open** and the program commences **Friday 9 March, 2018.**

For more information about the program, please contact the [Early Leaders Team](#).

# MONASH INFORMATION EVENINGS

## We're coming to you!

Ask us everything you ever wanted to know about studying at Monash, including our courses, international opportunities, accommodation, scholarships and where your degree can take you.

All 2018 information evenings will run from 6.30 to 8pm.

## VICTORIA

### MARCH

19 Warrnambool  
21 Mount Gambier

### MAY

15 Bendigo  
16 Shepparton  
23 Warragul

### JUNE

12 Ballarat  
18 Geelong

### AUGUST

14 Albury  
21 Sale  
23 Pathways

## REGISTER TODAY

To find out more and reserve your spot, visit: [monash.edu/info-evenings](http://monash.edu/info-evenings)



# Meet Melbourne in Warrnambool

Wednesday, 9 May 2018

## Who should come?

Prospective undergraduate students, their families and teachers

## Contact

[meet-melb@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:meet-melb@unimelb.edu.au)

## The University of Melbourne will be visiting Warrnambool to talk about:

- Courses and career outcomes, including the Melbourne Model with its many breadth opportunities and unique graduate pathways
- Making your new home in Melbourne, including housing options, connecting with others, and student services
- Opportunities such as studying a concurrent diploma, taking on an internship, going on exchange and scholarships
- 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.

## Register

[futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne](http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne)

## Event Schedule

6.00pm–6.30pm:

*Arrival and Registration*

6.30pm–8.00pm:

*Presentation*

8.00pm–8.30pm:

*Q & A session*

## Location

Lighthouse Theatre  
The Studio  
185 Timor St  
Warrnambool, Victoria

CRICOS Provider Code: 00116K



## NOTICES

# PLAYERS WANTED



## Cobden Night Netball

**The 2018 Session is about to begin**

**Register by Tuesday 13th March to the details below**  
(Games beginning 1st week of Term 2)

### **JUNIOR COMPETITION**

**C GRADE - Grade 2 to Grade 4**  
Wednesday Night after school  
Names or details to the C Grade  
Junior contact Ella Howard  
0488 057 000

**B GRADE - Grade 5 to Grade 6**  
Monday Night after school  
Names or details to the B Grade  
Junior contact Sarah Walsh  
0447 951 932

### **NEW COMPETITION**

**A GRADE - Year 7 to Year 8**  
Monday Night approx 6pm onwards  
Names or details to the A Grade  
Junior contact Elise Darcy  
0432 306 945

### **SENIOR COMPETITION**

**OPEN GRADE**  
Wednesday Night 6.30pm onwards  
Text A Grade teams or individual  
names to Julie Finney 0417 327 677

### **ALL PLAYERS**

**If you want to play in the  
Term 2 Competition  
please make sure you  
have your details in by  
TUESDAY 13th March.**

**For general enquires contact  
Janelle Smith 0409 423 687**

**ALL grades are subject to  
getting enough numbers**



### **CAMPERDOWN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

#### **Season 2018 Training Commences**

#### **Thursday 8th March**

Under 12s: 4.00 - 5.00pm - coach Jeremy Baker

Under 14s: 5.00 - 6.00pm - coaches Ash Sinnott & Simon Gill

Under 16s: 5.00 - 6.00pm - coach Fraser Lucas

*Under 16s will then continue train Tuesday & Thursday nights*

First Round against Terang Mortlake at Terang is Sunday 15th April

Under 12s must be aged 10 on the 1st January 2018 to be eligible.  
All players ages are taken from the 1st January 2018.

Registration forms, fees and information will be available at training or can be downloaded from our Facebook Page (Camperdown Magpies Junior Football & Netball - *please note this is a closed group for parents of players and players only, so please request membership*)

Please feel free to contact James Lane 0419887152, Gary O'Neil 0419302436 or Mel Fox 0408933662 if you have any questions or queries.

# **TERANG SWIMMING POOL'S COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2018**



**Open for all children ages 5 and under to 16 and over.**

**On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Children under 5's events include freestyle & backstroke. 33 metres**

**Children 6 & 7 years old include freestyle & backstroke. 33 metres**

**Children 8,9 & 10 years old include freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke & butterfly.**

**Children 11 & 12 years old include freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke & butterfly.**

**Children 13,14 & 15 years old include freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke & butterfly.**

**Children 16 & over include freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke & butterfly.**

**Open 1500m freestyle race at 2:30pm.**

**FREE EVENT FOR CHILDREN**

**FIRST RACE IS AT 11AM**

**TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD or FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**PLEASE SEE STAFF AT THE POOL.**



## BIG TOPS & TINY TOTS CIRCUS SHOW!

A CIRCUS ADVENTURE FOR 3-6 YEAR OLDS!

**FRIDAY 13 APRIL, 10AM**

**THEATRE ROYAL CAMPERDOWN**

45 minute school holiday session that includes a whole host of fun physical challenges and magical puzzles to solve

\$5 per child. Phone Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100 to book a spot

REGIONAL  
ARTS  
VICTORIA

CREATIVE VICTORIA



Company 13 presents

# MACDETH

*A funny, fake-bloody tale  
of greed and power.*

**AGES 8+**

**FRIDAY 13 APRIL, 2 PM**  
**THEATRE ROYAL CAMPERDOWN**  
**\$15 ADULT, \$40 FAMILY OF 4**  
**WWW.LIGHTHOUSE THEATRE.COM.AU**

EDENHART  
REGIONAL  
ARTS  
VICTORIA  
CREATIVE VICTORIA

## Movie & Fish 'n' Chip night

**Friday 13 April @  
Ecklin Hall**

6 pm start for food – movie  
starts at 7:30 pm

- \$10 per family
- BYO drinks
- Popcorn & lollies for sale
- BYO bean bag/cushion
- Movie 'SING' 7.30 pm – 9pm

All members of the  
community are welcome.



### MENU

Dim sims ..... \$1 each  
Chicken nuggets  
..... 3 for \$2  
Fish ..... \$4  
Chips ..... min \$2

There will be a separate area for  
grown-ups to eat and catch  
up while the kids watch the  
movie.

For further info contact:  
Kevin 0439 950 237

