20 October 2016

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Last week, we said a very fond farewell to our Year 12 class of 2016. To be truthful, we hope that it was more of a “see you later” and all elements of their official finish to the chapter that is their “Mercy” secondary education. In the last week, a number of Year 12 VCE students have been coming into school to meet their teachers as they revise and study for the exams. We, of course, wish each of them well and will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

On Sunday last week, Miss Barberi, her Year 12 PE class and some other teachers, participated in the 5km run component of the Melbourne Marathon. In windy conditions and sometimes rain, all of the girls successfully completed the run, as did their teachers. Congratulations girls and thanks to Miss Barberi for making this opportunity available to our students.

This week has been Week One of the Year 8 Independent Learning Fortnight. With the library as a central hub for the inquiry and investigation process, the Year 8 students, along with their teachers, have been fully immersed in individually designed independent investigations. In setting their “big questions” and then their success criteria, each of the students has set her own “learning agenda”. Next week is sure to be a great hub of active learning - good luck! Thanks to all the teachers who have been involved with the program as well as Educational Support staff and ACU pre-service teachers who have fulfilled the role of “critical friend” to ensure all students are focussed.

On Thursday and Friday, Miss Coughlan accompanied three students to the Mercy Education Seeds of Justice Camp. We look forward to hearing from the students in the coming weeks about their experience and subsequent ideas about social justice.

Thanks to Mrs Perin and Mrs Herrera for representing the College at the St Mark’s, Fawkner Parent Information Evening on Wednesday night for Year 6 students transitioning into secondary school.

Congratulations to the more than 20 students who successfully completed their training to become Student Interviewers and Mentors this week. The experience of being a student member of a staff interview panel is an exciting and sometimes nerve-wracking one, however the students who have now trained for the role will no doubt be great. They will get to test out their skills in the coming weeks.

Today was going to be the Athletics Carnival but the weather prediction was looking a little ominous and so we have postponed this event. The new date will be advised ASAP. Thanks to Miss Barberi (Head of Health and PE) for her coordination of this whole school event.

Best wishes

Dr Michelle Cotter
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – MRS JENNI HICKEY

While we farewelled our graduating class of 2016 last week, we have also been in the process of electing the 2017 school leaders. As part of the selection process, the students outlined to the school community their vision of leadership and what they felt they could contribute to shaping our school into a community where everyone can contribute and belong.

We would like to congratulate the newly elected Mercy College Student Executive for 2017. We look forward to working closely with you as we finalise 2016 and plan for 2017.
Whilst these students have undertaken to serve their community in 2017 in formal leadership roles, there are also many amazing young women who are and will continue to be school leaders - perhaps not in formal leadership roles - but still very much leaders in our school in their own way, either in coaching sports teams, or participating in debating or the performing arts. We would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate these students who stand up and make a difference - we are who we are because of you.

**Director of Mission – Ms Loretta Kitch**

**Social Justice in an ageing society**

Each year, the Australian Catholic Bishops choose a different social justice theme to focus on. For 2016-2017 the focus is on the ageing and treatment of the elderly in Australia and they recently published a statement entitled: *A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society.*

In the statement, the value, dignity and contributions of older people to the life of the community are celebrated. The bishops challenge us to not just value people for what they can produce and contribute economically. We are asked not to regard older people as burdens who are dispensable. The bishops go on to call for communities and families of mercy and love - where people reach out and minister to vulnerable older people, where bonds between generations are built up, and where no one is cast as being a burden to younger generations.

The number of Australians aged 65 and over will more than double by the middle of this century. Increasing numbers of older people have an excellent chance of enjoying good health and an active life for many years. Are we, as a society, prepared for this shift in the ageing of our population? How do we care for the elderly who live for many years with poor health?

For those of us who have elderly parents, the words of the statement are not only challenging, but they hit close to home. Perhaps some of the words of this prayer that accompanies the Bishops’ Statement may resonate with you:

> God of all creation, you are timeless and beyond all ages. We who are growing old give thanks for the years you have given us – for family, friends and all those who have enriched our lives. **We who are not yet old give thanks for the older people in our lives: for grandparents, loved ones, friends and all who generously offer the wise counsel of their years.** We who are growing old pray for good health in our later years, and for the same, and for our families. **We who are not yet old pray for good health for those we love and compassion towards those who suffer ill health.**

God of endless love, help us to understand that we share a common life journey, a call to live life to the full and to strive to enable all creation to come to the fullness of the Cosmic Christ.

**Amen**

For further reflection on this issue of the ageing and our care of them, you may wish to watch the video produced by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council - Social Justice in an ageing society:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_EZHpDHsEE

**Chaldean Mass**

All Chaldean students and their families are welcome to join us in the celebration of mass here in the College chapel with Fr Maher Gurses on Thursday, 10 November at 12:15 pm. Mass will be followed by a shared lunch in the Community Hub for those who are able to stay.

**Bridges of Mercy**

“As College Co-Captains for 2017, we were lucky enough to attend the bi-annual Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association in Sydney over the recent September school holidays. Representatives from each Mercy school across the country, as well as from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, gathered at the Josephine Reflection Centre. The conference was hosted by the five Mercy schools in Sydney and the theme for the four days was ‘Bridges of Mercy’. We had six guest speakers who all discussed the theme differently. We then had a justice market which was an opportunity for us to show what our school was doing for social justice and to see what other schools may be doing differently.

The conference was an eye opening experience for us. It taught us what ‘Mercy in Action’ is and what we can do to bring awareness and change to our hurting world. Vikaye’s highlight would have to be having been around like minded people and sharing ideas. To see that there are a lot of young people who care about social justice issues and want to take part in making a change was such an empowering thing to see and we hope to bring that same attitude here at school. We are thankful for
the opportunity to attend the conference and it has certainly inspired us for the coming year.”

Alana & Vikaye

Subject Selection

During Term 3, the current Year 10 students and the Year 11 students spent a lot of time reflecting on their 2017 VCE programs. Each Year 10 student discussed their potential learning programs with a staff member and all students had the opportunity to gain specialist careers feedback to ensure the best selections were made based on their individual pathways. The VCE Subject Grid has been completed and the Middle School Elective Grid is currently being developed.

Booklists

Next week, students will receive their Campion booklists. The return date is 18 November. Booklists need to be returned to the College by this date in order to make the sell date at school. The booklist sell date at school will take place on 13 December from 9.00am until 1.00pm. It is an expectation that students begin to complete some of the reading for English over the school holidays, therefore purchasing the books prior to Christmas is highly recommended. Reading ahead is a worthwhile exercise for all students, especially those taking on a Unit 3&4 subject in Year 11 2017.

Before anything else, preparation is the key to success. Alexander Graham Bell

Day for Daniel – Friday October 28

Daniel Morcombe was a 13-year-old Australian boy who was abducted from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, on 7 December 2003. The “Daniel Morcombe Foundation”, started by his parents, is committed to educating children about personal safety. The “Day for Daniel” is held to promote awareness of the vulnerability of children. The official “Day for Daniel” is on Friday October 28. All staff and students are invited to wear something red on this day - a red t-shirt over your uniform, a red hat, a red ribbon in your hair, red socks - to further raise awareness about child safety and to promote a safer community.

To further raise awareness, the Canteen will be selling some yummy RED treats on this day.

Term 4 Uniform Requirements

Students are expected to be wearing their full summer uniform from Monday 24 October. The blazer is required to be worn to and from school. Students participating in Physical Education, Outdoor Education or sports training sessions outside must be wearing a cap.

Try Something New

Everyone has at least one thing on their list that they haven’t quite been able to start. Have you ever felt procrastination take over more than just school work? Has it held back your dreams of starting your own band, joining an indoor soccer team, creating a YouTube channel, or learning how to unicycle? Here is your chance to put aside the excuses! BITE BACK has just launched a new competition called Try Something New. People from all over Australia are joining in to put down on paper what they’ve always wanted to do, and are now getting out there and doing it.

So here’s your chance. Register now and go in the running to win one of three awesome prize packs including a pair of Beats on ear headphones, a Zoku Slushy Maker, a Faber Castell Watercolour Pencil Set and much more.

Registration closes soon. Make it happen and try something new.

http://www.biteback.org.au/competition

DISCOVER MERCY OPEN DAY

The next Discover Mercy Open Day will be held on Tuesday 8 November. See flyer for further information.
Come along to the Mercy College Trivia Night to be held on Saturday 26 November for a 7pm start. All proceeds go to Mercy in Action Cambodia 2017.

Semester Two Performing Arts Concert

I am pleased to announce that the Semester Two Performing Arts Concert will be held on the evening of Thursday 1 December, 7.30pm – 10.30pm in McAuley Hall. Showcasing the talents and learning of our Performing Arts students, this concert will feature co-curricular and classroom music, dance and drama. A variety of music ensembles will perform alongside 7A, 7B, 8C, Year 9 Music, Year 9 Dance, and VCE students.

The Performing Arts team look forward to seeing you there.

Year 12 Drama Solo Performance Exam

Congratulations to Sarah Bedaweed, Natalie El Bazouni, Breanna Gallo, Jemma Miller and Lina Sanaty for kicking off the Year 12 exam season with their spectacular performances on Tuesday 4 October. Each student was required to perform a seven minute solo piece based on a chosen stimulus. This exam is worth 35% of their study score for Drama.

The Year 12 Drama students’ solo performance

Ms Caitlin Lamont
Acting Co-Head of The Arts

ANZAC Commemoration Poster - an invitation to contribute

The Victorian Government, through the ANZAC Centenary Team, is inviting people with personal connections to the First World War through an ancestor, to submit a tribute image to appear on a special release ANZAC centenary poster.

To get involved you will need:

- A hard copy photo of your ancestor (you can print it out on normal paper if you don’t already have a printed photo)
- iPhone/Android or a camera (the phone is the easiest option as you can upload via the app directly)
- Someone from the family who will pose with the photo of your ancestor. We would like to encourage younger family members to be involved so they learn about their connection; grandchildren and great grandchildren are ideal.
- A good spot to take your photo - against a blank house wall or neutral background is ideal

Please visit the I Will Remember app (no download required) on your iPhone/android to take a photo of your family member holding the photo of your ancestor and fill in the required details. If you have more than one ancestor you would like to
acknowledge, you can submit multiple photos, one at a time on separate forms.

Please note - submissions must be in the style shown on the website (link below) with a family member holding the image of their ancestor/s. The A2 poster (which can be found on the website) will be distributed to all those who participate in 2017. Places are limited, so be sure to upload your image ASAP.

For more information please visit this website:
submit-photo/

eSMART

Social media doesn’t just have to be about how many likes a post gets on Facebook, how many followers you have on Instagram or your Snapchat story. Whilst there are people out there who make lots of money from blogging and publishing stories and articles online, there is a lot to be cautious of before you start sharing your writing.

Wattpad

A recent survey we conducted with students showed some are using the app Wattpad to publish stories. There are many benefits of using this app, however, there are some things to be aware of.

According to the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner, Wattpad is accessible through desktop, mobile and as an app. Once registered, all users can read stories on Wattpad and write their own stories to share.

Every user registered on Wattpad has a profile where they can share the stories they like, as well as photos and information about themselves. Wattpad also allows people to send personal messages to one another. Wattpad is only available to people over the age of 13.

For more information on Wattpad, including their Terms of Service, how you can protect your information and how to report cyberbullying, please visit the Office of Children’s eSafety website by clicking on this link:

Alternatively, Wattpad has published guidelines for parents and families which can be accessed via this link:
https://support.wattpad.com/hc/en-us/articles/204744684-Guidelines-for-Parents-Families

Ms Jemmah Ind
eSmart Coordinator

Table Tennis Premiers!

After many weeks of training, the College table tennis teams were ready to face off against five other schools at MSAC on 7 October. Under the guidance of Mr Klepp and Miss Bullen, the girls were raring to go, ready to play a total of six games each against some very determined and serious teams. The girls were not overwhelmed by this, and gave their all in every match that they played.

Alyssa Pizzi and Talia Korica were a dominant team amongst the field of all juniors, losing only one match for the entire day. Their fellow junior team mates played in many close matches and displayed impeccable sportsmanship throughout the day. Overall, the junior team finished in 5th position which was excellent, as for many of the juniors, this was their first time representing Mercy College in school sport.

Our intermediate team was short one player on the morning of the competition. However, thanks to Tara Mashakada of Year 8, they were able to field their third team. With mixed results throughout the day, the girls gave 100% and ended up playing in the final to finish in either 3rd or 4th position. Victorious after four matches, the team finished in third position after coming up against some fierce competition.

High expectations were placed upon the senior team as they arrived, ready to defend their championship title. With a team of 10, the girls rotated themselves throughout the day, winning the majority of their matches. At the end of the pool matches, the senior team finished in 1st place and played off for a position in the Grand Final. A tough decision had to be made, with only 8 of the 10 girls being able to play in the final. With all the girls being good sports, it was decided who would play and these girls went on to win their semi-final, meaning the thought of becoming back to back champions was quickly becoming a reality. In a very close match, the senior team were triumphant in the Grand Final, overall winning 8 games to 6 against a very tough opponent. Julia Lilla was a standout on the day amongst the whole competition, claiming the title of Best Player in the Grand Final.

SCSA Table Tennis premiers

Congratulations has to go out to all the girls who participated. Their effort throughout the whole day was fantastic and they represented the College with pride. A special thanks to Mr Klepp for his efforts throughout the day and running lunchtime training sessions – which evidently paid off!!

Ms Nicole Bullen
Student Teacher ACU

HEALTH & PE @ MERCY
SCSA Softball Competition

Juniors

"On Friday 14 October, we travelled to Geelong to compete in the SCSA Softball competition. We were very nervous at the start, which was why we lost the first game. We learnt from our mistakes and improved our skills and we won the second game. In our third game, we played really well and won again! Because we won two out of three games, we found ourselves in the Grand Final against Mount St Joseph’s.

The grand final was really intense as they were the team we lost against. It was a very close game. After the first innings, we were one run behind and MSJ were five runs ahead after the second innings. During the third innings, we changed our tactics and strategically we got our whole team home. 9 HOME RUNS!!! However, time was our enemy and the third innings didn’t count which meant MSJ won.

It was a great day regardless of the scores and we couldn’t have done it without Miss Barberi and Rita’s inspirational pep talks."

Aristea Vorenas and Claudia Dell’Universita JMG4

Intermediates

“The intermediate softball team competed against three other schools at the Softball tournament in Geelong on Friday 14 October. The bus ride was a long one, but we had lots of laughs along the way. The sun was out and it was a beautiful day for softball.

We won our first game, but weren’t so lucky with the next two games. Our last game was against a Geelong girls’ school, Clonard. This game decided who was placing 3rd or 4th and we ended up finishing 4th. We played a great couple of games and, even though we weren’t successful, we still had a great time and made memories that we will remember for a long time.

We are now looking forward to next year and know what we need to do to improve. We would like to thank Miss Barberi and Mr Pasinati and the two student teachers who helped and coached us throughout the day!”

Ellie Adams 9B

ITALIAN @ MERCY

“Martedì 06 settembre, la nostra classe di italiano di anno 11 ha fatto una gita alla Galleria Nazionale del Victoria. Abbiamo avuto la possibilità di esplorare le varie opere d’arte di diversi artisti famosi in tutto il mondo, in particolare artisti italiani. Visto che abbiamo studiato l’arte italiana in classe, questa esperienza ci ha permesso di parlare in italiano sul significato dei dipinti e dei loro artisti. Abbiamo fatto questa gita per aiutarci a studiare per il nostro prossimo compito in classe e ci ha aiutato con l’apprendimento del vocabolario delle arti. E’ stata una grande giornata, e tutte noi abbiamo appreso molto. Vorremmo ringraziare il signor Gava per aver organizzato la gita e per averci accompagnate!”

Di Laura Mancino MG4 e Angela Poci MG5

“On Tuesday 6 September, our Year 11 Italian class took a trip to the National Gallery of Victoria. It was a chance to explore the various artworks from different famous artists around the world, in particular Italian artists. Due to studying Italian art in class, this experience enabled us to speak in Italian about the significance of paintings and their artists. We participated in this excursion to help us study for our upcoming Listening Outcome, which assisted us with learning the vocabulary of The Arts. It was a great day and we all learnt a lot. We would like to thank Mr Gava for organising and taking us to the excursion!”

By Laura Mancino MG4 and Angela Poci MG5

Mr Mario Gava
Italian teacher
**PRAYER**

Gentle and humble Jesus,

Your parable on prayer is a lesson in humility. Teach us that you are close to those who call on you, especially the broken-hearted. Help us to recognize our smallness and praise your great and mighty love.

**REFLECTION**

*Year of Mercy*

**SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

*To Caution Another in Error*

  Challenge someone who is in error.
  Have the courage to confront a person or group doing the wrong thing.
  Suggest another path to peace from the conflict.

Embrace this Spiritual work of mercy today.

*God's response to chaos is to call a new humanity.*

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Annual Halloween Blue Light Disco TONIGHT!

21 October at 6.30pm

![Blue Light Disco Poster](image-url)