18 November 2016

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

On Sunday, on the feast of Christ the King, Pope Francis closed the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica and thus ended the Jubilee of Mercy. 2016, the Jubilee Year of Mercy, has been a holy year in the life of our Church and has indeed brought many blessings on us, people of mercy and on our College community. We have much to be thankful for as a community, the most precious of which are our shared faith and values and each other.

With excellence, hospitality, justice and compassion in our hearts, in our minds and seen through the work of our hands, we have again this past fortnight lived mercy in action. Last Friday, the Year 9 students and their program teachers, Miss Wood, Miss Rustom and Miss Walker, created and shared a most reverent and beautiful Remembrance Day Service in our Jubilee Garden for the whole school and then displayed their Australia at War research investigations in the Drama Centre. Last Thursday, the Mercy Swim Team started training for 2017 at their first 7am training session at Fawkner Pool with Miss Barberi inspiring a dozen girls to thinking and acting to strive for their highest possible performance levels.

Last week on Thursday evening, our 2017 Year 7 students and their families joined us formally for the first time as a group. The information evening enabled much conversation and Q & A as well as a chance to step into the spirit of mercy as members of the “mercy family” for the first time. Thanks to Mrs McNamara (Director of Student Wellbeing), Mrs Allison Perin (Junior School Leader) and Mrs Robyn Herrera (Development Officer) for their work in preparing the evening and presenting. A large number of current Year 7s and Senior Student Leaders also attended and provided insightful perspectives on what to expect and how to best be prepared for secondary school.

On Monday night, the College hosted the ACU Sponsored CTEC Dinner (Catholic Teacher Education Consortium) end of year dinner in the Community Hub. Led by the Associate Vice Chancellor Victoria ACU Dr John Ballard, Ms Catherine O’Donnell Associate Director Equity Pathways and a number of senior ACU staff joined with the Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI DD – Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and Principals from Catholic secondary schools across the northern and western regions to acknowledge and celebrate the partnership between schools and ACU with a focus on opening up opportunities for our students.

On Thursday evening, we celebrated with our Year 12 Class of 2016 and their parents at the Celebration Dinner at Moonee Valley Racecourse. Our shared meal was a great opportunity to reminisce and give thanks for the journey to and through Year 12. Thanks to Ms Stiles (Senior School Leader) and the Senior Mentor Group Teachers for their continued support of the girls as well as the large number of staff who attended the dinner.

This week our Year 10s and 11s are undertaking their end of year exams. Next week they will commence the Early Start program to prepare for next year. As we end the year we are also gearing up for the future – congratulations to all of these students who continue to bravely challenge themselves and be open to new possibilities and opportunities.

Best wishes

Dr Michelle Cotter
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – MRS JENNI HICKEY

Early departure of students from the College

We request that when students are required to make an early departure from the College, they follow the set procedure.

While we understand that in extreme emergencies or in the case where an appointment has been made urgently, it is not always possible to predict that your daughter will need to depart her class early. However we would like to stress that the classroom learning is very important for all students and it is very disruptive to the learning of the students in the class if we need to interrupt the lesson to exit a student.
A reminder – Early Start program

Students in Years 10 and 11 will undertake the Early Start program from November 23 - 28. The VCE /VCAL teachers have designed Early Start programs to provide the students with a start to their subjects for 2017. The individual timetable for Early Start will be provided to students at the first session of the program on Wednesday 23 November. The program will conclude on Monday 28 November with a liturgy in the afternoon.

DIRECTOR OF MISSION – MS LORETTA KITCH

Mercy College Advent Preparations

The Senior School final Advent Liturgy (for current Year 10s & 11s) will take place at the end of the Early Start program, during Period 6 on Monday, November 28.

Years 7 to 9 will have their Advent Liturgy on their final day, Thursday, December 8, during Period 1. Parents and families of our students are welcome to join us in McAuley Hall for either liturgy.

Christmas Collections (hampers) & The Corporal Works of Mercy

Within our Catholic tradition we refer to the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy. These are different ways of “being” mercy and “bringing” mercy to the world.

In our Advent preparations leading up to Christmas, we have an opportunity to participate in the Corporal Works of Mercy by bringing in donations to help poor children and their families.

Year 11s are asked to bring items for a box for children of a specific age group that are assisted by McAuley Community Services for Women and Years 7 to 10 are asked to bring items to make hamper boxes for families that are helped by the Salvation Army.

The following celebratory items (that will help to brighten the Christmas of families in need) are requested for Years 7 to 10:

- Christmas puddings
- Shortbreads/Christmas biscuits
- Chocolates
- Christmas stockings
- Bags of lollies – any sort of yummy Christmas/festive food

We would also like to include Christmas items such as decorations and bon-bons.

If every student donates 3 or 4 things over the next few weeks we will be able to put together hampers for about 80 families. Our Christmas hampers will be distributed through the Coburg branch of the Salvation Army to needy families on December 13. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

End of the Jubilee Year of Mercy - reflecting on our treatment of refugees

This Sunday, November 20, the Feast of Christ the King, marks the official end of the Special Jubilee Year of Mercy that was called by Pope Francis. Here at Mercy College we have recognised this extraordinary year through our theme, “Travel in Mercy”, considering ourselves to be pilgrims on a journey of bringing mercy to others. Even though the Year of Mercy is ending, the need for ongoing signs of mercy in our world remains, and so we pray that we may continue to bring mercy to others, especially those most in need.

In reflecting upon the need for mercy in the world, we cannot help but think of those refugees who have sought asylum in Australia. The Turnbull government’s recent announcement about the move to seek legislation to prevent current refugees who are housed in offshore detention centres from ever entering Australia is particularly disturbing. The Catholic Church teaches that anyone whose life is threatened has the right to protection (whether because of persecution, armed conflicts, natural disasters, or economic conditions that threaten their lives or physical integrity). It is the element of persecution, threat or danger, or being forcibly displaced that gives rise to a right to seek asylum rather than to migrate through ordinary channels. The Church also teaches that human life is sacred because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Human dignity is inalienable. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival.

Given this teaching, it is not a surprise that the Australian Catholic Bishops have recently issued statements condemning this new legislation as being cruel, particularly as it may force families to be permanently separated. If you have a moment you might like to read the letter from Bishop Long, The Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate on Refugees. It can be found here:

A prayer for a continued deepening awareness of Mercy

Bless us, O God of Mercy, with an ongoing deepening awareness of the meaning of your mercy; that faithful love and tenderness that you have for each of us. Help us in our efforts to be people of compassion and merciful justice. Challenge our hearts and minds as we strive to live the gospel values of kindness, respect and service to others. Lead us to those most in need, to places and situations gripped by poverty and neglect.

Guide our world in ways of tolerance and peace.
May your Mercy be a light of hope, a way of freedom, a source of truth.
We make this prayer as this Year of Mercy ends, in the name of God the Creator and sustainer of all, Jesus the expression of mercy, and the Spirit who animates and enables us on our journey.

Amen

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING – 
MS VANESSA FOLINO

Early Start

Students in Years 10 and 11 will undertake the Early Start program from November 23 - 28. All VCE classes will have three sessions allocated. These sessions will provide students with an overview of the course and they will also commence the first unit of work. Homework will be set in order to prepare students for 2017 to ensure they have the confidence and knowledge required to begin the year with a positive mindset. Holiday homework must be completed otherwise students will find themselves seriously disadvantaged upon their return.

Booklists

A reminder that booklists were due today and the collection of the books will take place at the College on December 13 from 9.00am.

Exam Reflection

The exam period has now concluded; it is now time for the students in Years 10 and 11 to reflect on their learning. Students will be provided with their corrected exams. In order to improve student learning and facilitate deep understanding, students must invest time into reflecting on their results and work towards establishing future learning goals. Through this process students are able to learn about themselves as learners and become aware of how they learn, which strategies worked well and what might need to be tweaked. This type of reflection should be ongoing; it can take the form of self or peer assessment and often with the help of the teacher. The aim is to determine what needs to come next in their learning. Assessment as learning helps students to take more responsibility for their own learning and monitoring future directions. Questions that assist in this reflection include:

- What is the purpose of learning these concepts and skills?
- What do I know about this topic?
- What strategies do I know that will help me learn this?
- Am I understanding these concepts?
- What is the criteria for improving my work?
- Have I accomplished the goals I set for myself?

PAT Testing

Another form of assessment that is currently taking place is the PAT testing. These are standardised tests in the areas of maths and literacy. The PAT-R test measures and tracks student progress specifically in: reading comprehension, word knowledge and spelling. The PAT-M test covers: number, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics and probability. This assessment is used by teachers to inform their teaching and set realistic learning goals. These tests are administered each year to assist in the planning of effective learning programs and provide teachers with a better understanding of their learners.

Without reflection, we go blindly on our way, creating more unintended consequences, and failing to achieve anything useful. Margaret J. Wheatley

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING – 
MRS MICHELLE McNAMARA

Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach – A Catholic summer holiday program

Students from Mercy College are invited to take part in a summer camp at Don Bosco Camp at Safety Beach during the upcoming holidays. The camp is for young people, 9 – 13 years old (junior) and 13 – 16 years old (senior). Don Bosco provides a fun, exciting holiday for all, regardless of financial circumstances, in a safe and supportive environment. If you are interested please visit the link below or call 03 5987 2692 for more information or see below.

http://www.donboscocamp.org.au
BUSINESS MANAGER – MRS JUDY SAILORS

2017 School Fees

In the mail this week, families will have received information regarding the 2017 school fees. Please complete the Nomination of Payment Method form and return to the College by 25 November 2016. All families are required to nominate a payment method. Any families on special arrangements will meet with the Business Manager in the coming weeks to confirm their payment arrangements for 2017.

If you are unable to meet your fee obligation for 2017, please call the College to make an appointment so we can discuss your fee account.

2016 Fees

A reminder to all families with outstanding fee accounts. You are required to finalise your fee account by 10 December 2016.

If you are unable to meet this deadline, please contact the College.

MERCY IN ACTION - TRIVIA NIGHT

We will be holding a Trivia Night in support of the Mercy in Action - Cambodia 2017 immersion on Saturday November 26. The evening starts at 6.30pm in McAuley Hall. Along with the trivia competition, there will be an awesome silent auction where you will have the chance to bid on many items such as:

- 3 course dinner for two (including a bottle of wine) at Hilton South Wharf
- Signed Carlton Football Club memorabilia
- Signed Melbourne Victory memorabilia

As well as the silent auction, we will have many other opportunities for you to win some amazing prizes. Local businesses and restaurants have been very generous and have donated goods and services that you will no doubt be very pleased to win. Raffles, Lucky Envelopes, games - all of these will give you the opportunity to win some amazing prizes.

Tickets are $10 - so make up a table of 8 and join us for a fun night so we can raise lots of money to take with us to help some of the poorest people in Cambodia. Please call the College on 9319 9299 to secure your place at the Trivia Night.

MATHS @ MERCY

During Term 3, over 200 girls from Mercy participated in the Australian Maths Competition. This was a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves in an international competition. Years 7&8 participated in the junior division and Years 9&10 participated in the intermediate division. The top results in each year level are as follows: Year 7 - Eva Ryan JMG6, Year 8 - Alyssa Pizzi JMG6, Year 9 - Nethma Perera 9B and Year 10 - Magma Yonzon 10B. The Best in School Award Winner is Nethma Perera. Well done to everyone on a great achievement!

Ms Maria Carinci
Head of Learning - Mathematics
Year 8 Maths – Geometry excursion

Over weeks 6 - 8 of this term, the Year 8 Maths classes headed to Federation Square in Melbourne’s CBD to investigate the geometric qualities of the buildings’ design. Understanding the tessellations, congruency and patterns present in the architecture of the iconic Square, the Year 8s saw links between maths, design, engineering, marketing and construction.

Practical applications of mathematical concepts surround us! It was fantastic to be able to see such an iconic example with so many links to other domains.

Ms Caitlin Lamont
Year 8 Maths Team Leader

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Athletics Carnival – Take Two

KANE highlights

“The whole Kane house showed amazing efforts of participation and enthusiasm throughout the whole day. Everyone had a go and tried their best and everyone enjoyed themselves. Despite the windy weather, everyone kept a positive attitude. As a result of everyone’s efforts, Kane won the Athletics Carnival with 716 points and won the most points in both Years 7 and 9! It was great to see everyone having fun whilst playing sport and I was proud to be captain of Kane house. Hopefully we can keep it up throughout 2017!”

Tara Papotto 10D

FRAYNE highlights

“Although the outcome for the Frayne house was not what we had hoped, the participation of the younger year levels was very impressive. As a result, Frayne won overall year level winner for Year 8 and had a vast amount of our Year 7s participating and getting involved. In our older year levels, it was a bit more challenging to get students involved however, the turnout was better than what we expected. We, as a house, were very enthusiastic with our costumes and I, as the captain, was proud of our efforts this year.”

Christina Pizzi 10D

O’HEA highlights

“Throughout the day, O’Hea showed amazing house spirit. We showed the other teams that O’Hea was a force to be reckoned with. An amazing result throughout the day was the Year 11s winning the year level award with more than 100 points. It was a great day and although athletics isn’t for everyone, everyone kept a positive attitude and were not afraid to give everything a go.”

Brianna Shears 10C

MARIAN highlights

“Marian came to defend their title. With lots of Marian veterans and up and coming talent, they took to each event showcasing their skills. Bianca Fatone was a Marian supergun winning the senior 100m championship race. This helped lead Marian to victory in the Year 10 year level. The Marian house came 3rd overall finishing with 644 points.”

Natalie Pafralis MG6 (Year 11)

THECLA highlights

“Thecla has inherited some new students this year in Year 7 and 8, who showed great potential on the day. Khailey Malay Martin from Year 8 was a Thecla standout, winning the 100m junior championship race and placing 3rd in the junior 800m championship with a time of 3.11 seconds. She also took out the Year 8 overall championship student!! Thecla came out to play during the Pizza and Mexican relays but it wasn’t enough to get them over the edge this year.”

Diana Taranto MG3 (Year 11)

Follow the link to see highlights from the day!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_-oWFMr7SnA

Year 9 Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education Camp Semester 2

“The Year 9 Outdoor Ed class set off to camp at 1.30pm on Thursday afternoon. The drive to Boar Gully Campsite was filled with excitement as we couldn’t wait to get there! When we arrived, we quickly set up camp and took in our surroundings, which included the reality of no reception to update our snapchat stories. We cooked our own meals for dinner, and later had marshmallows by the campfire for dessert. The toilet was definitely a challenge, and many of us were thankful for the other resources we could use at our disposal i.e. the open bush. We didn’t get much sleep due to the various visitors we had lingering around (possums), but we were ready and roaring for the 10km hike the next day. The hike was strenuous, but the scenery we were lucky enough to view was worth the pain. The drive home was long and agonizing, however the quick pit stop to Maccas put a smile on our faces as we were reconnected with civilisation once again. Thanks to Mr Moss and Ms Purcell for sharing this experience with us and creating memories together we’re bound to never forget.”

Georgia Dupuy and Julia Anile 9A

Follow the link to see highlights from the camp:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9i5Xcheq0U
Happiness Cycle

“On Wednesday the 9th of November, 10 students accompanied by Mr Moss, participated in ‘The Happiness Cycle’ in South Geelong. This initiative is regularly held with the aim of promoting healthy living and encouraging teens to engage in an active lifestyle. We began the day with a tiring bus ride, however I can speak on behalf of the group when I say that each one of us was excited for the day ahead of us. We finally arrived in Geelong, and to our surprise we were in a group with another 117 students! Before assembling parts of our bike, each rider had to collect their safety gear and we also had to undergo a safety and skills training session to ensure that we were aware of how to prevent any safety hazards. The bikes were then assembled and checked over by supervising mechanics. After this, we were taken out onto the road and in single file we cycled 5 kilometres on our new bikes to a park to showcase our newly learnt skills. The park comprised of many hills and dirt tracks making it a challenge for each of us. Fortunately, we found the experience incredible. We felt like professional cyclists on the track and luckily each of us managed to stay injury-free. By the end of the day, we were all expectedly exhausted. To end our magnificent day, each one of us was rewarded with a brand new BMX bike to take home, with a helmet, lock and light as well. We made individual pledges to continue cycling and to continue getting active as much as we possibly could. Not only did we receive a bike but throughout the program we also received training in, and developed, leadership and teamwork skills. Overall, it was an unforgettable day and one that we would love to do again. I would like to especially thank Mr Moss for sacrificing his time to accompany us on this brilliant day.”

Nicole Nabbout 10D

Follow link to see highlights from the day
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc0hMxO0eTs

Year 10 Fitness Program at GOODLIFE Gym

Over the past few weeks the Year 10 students have been participating in fitness classes at GOODLIFE gym Coburg. They have been working hard participating in circuit classes, experimenting on the weight machines and working up a sweat on the cardio machines.

2017 Swimming Squad

The 2017 Mercy Swimming Squad have begun their training for next year’s SCSA swimming event. They have been training Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings before school. The squad of almost 20 students have already shown improvements and are excited to take on the other schools in next year’s event.
PRACE

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PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, you break the power of evil and make all things new in your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe. May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory and never cease to praise you. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

REFLECTION

Sunday 20 November – Feast of Christ the King

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked. Jesus replied, ‘Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?’ Jesus replied, ‘Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.’ ‘So you are a king then?’ said Pilate. ‘It is you who say it,’ answered Jesus. ‘Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

John 18:33-37
7 November 2016

Media Statement from Bishop Vincent Long ofm conv,
Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Refugees

“The announcement by Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, and Minister for Immigration, Peter Dutton that the Government will introduce proposed legislation banning those who have arrived to Australia by boat from 19 July 2013 onwards from ever being able to apply for a visa to Australia is deeply disappointing.”

“Seeking asylum even by boat is not illegal. It is a basic human right. Yet not content with demeaning them, the Australian government now want to introduce laws that will ban them from ever coming here.”

“The motives for these measures, in light of the current situation on Manus Island and Nauru, and in light of the bigger challenges facing Australia, are questionable at best and sinister at worst. Domestic advocates and international agencies have been appalled by the conditions under which asylum seekers live and the effects on their health, spirits and self-respect. To single out and punish further a small number of people who came by boat, even if they are found to meet the refugee definition is deliberately cruel and un-Australian. It betrays the tradition, status and character of the country that we are proud of – a richly resourced country with a big heart for migrants and refugees.”

“I urge all Australians to reject these cruel and unnecessary measures. We must find a more just, humane and effective way in dealing with the complex issues of seeking asylum and refugee protection. Inflicting more pain and harm to a small group of people who have caused us no harm is not worthy of all fair dinkum Australians.”

“I appeal to all political leaders to resist this latest mean-spirited move against asylum seekers and to reclaim the reputation of a decent, humane and generous country; it is the kind of country that refugees like myself are indebted to and proud to call home.”

Bishop Vincent Long is the Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Migrants and Refugees and a former boat person himself.

For media enquiries, please contact Aoife Connors on 0450 348 597 or media@catholic.org.au
St Mark's Fawkner

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

Rides
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Saturday 19th November
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Lee Street Fawkner
9359 6463

Live Entertainment
Market Stalls

St. Mark's Catholic Parish Primary School
AFRIQUE BEATZ PRESENTS
SOUNDS OF AFRICA FESTIVAL
SAT. 26/11/2016
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Dr Ines Rio

General Practitioner, educator and health planner

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invites you to its

12th Australia Day Breakfast

Dr Ines Rio has held Board and committee positions for over 12 years in Federal, State and Local Governments and in the community non-profit sector.

Dr Rio is a GP in a community health centre a GP obstetrician at the Royal Women's Hospital, where she is also head of the General Practice Liaison Unit.

Dr Rio is Chair of the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network, a member of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services Human Research Ethics, Emergency Clinical Network and Ministerial Advisory Council for the New Victorian Services and Infrastructure Plan.

Dr Rio also works with the City of Melbourne where she is Medical Officer for Health and a member of the Family and Children's Advisory and Emergency Planning Committees.

Dr Rio has extensive experience as a clinician in a range of diverse settings and roles, an educator, a service developer and manager, and a public health advisor. In addition she is lead author of Growing Together. A Kit For Parents: Conception To One Year and an author of The Women's Health Book.

Yet another amazing speaker not to be missed!

7.30 am, Thursday 26 January 2017
Coburg Civic Centre
$50.00 with a cooked breakfast

Contact Details: Russell Stuckey
P: 0418 368 454 E: russell@stuckey.com.au