

# NEWSLETTER

14 June 2019

## From the Principal



**Lila McInerney**  
Principal

M.Ed Lead, B. Theol, Grad Dip. Stud. Guid & Welfare, Grad Dip. RE, Grad. Cert. Curr. Lead, Dip. Teach



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### Dear Mercy Community,

As I write this, I reflect that we have recently celebrated the feast of Pentecost. In the Acts of the Apostles, we are told 'Suddenly there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind. It filled the entire house. A tongue, as of fire, rested on each of the disciples. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages. The gospel was preached to all the world' (see Acts 2:1-4; 5-13). The first Pentecost made the fire of the gospel spread round the Mediterranean world. A mighty wind blew it from Jerusalem to Rome and then outwards and down through the centuries and across the world to the city, town or quiet place where you are reading these words today.



We reflect on the power of the spirit in our lives. In Melbourne, the glorious colours of autumn have disappeared and winter has well and truly arrived. This time of year brings with it exams, assessment tasks, reports and, very soon, the end of another term. This can be a stressful time for students, however our Level Learning and Wellbeing Leaders, Homeroom teachers and Leadership Team are all excellent resources for those who may be feeling overwhelmed. I hope that our girls will grasp the opportunity to reflect on their learning thus far, organise their study materials and demonstrate the knowledge and skills refined over the past semester.

### 2018 Annual Report

The College has recently been engaged in the writing of our 2018 Annual Report. We believe it is a wonderful publication that celebrates our community and our collective achievements throughout 2018.

The report follows a range of reporting requirements on school performance as set out by Catholic Education Melbourne and the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). It offers reflections on the 2018 year and provides information around five spheres – Education in Faith, Student Wellbeing, Learning and Teaching, Leadership and Management and School Community. The publication also provides our community with information pertaining to the future directions of the College.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our inclusive faith learning community as we continue to support the growth of the students in our care. [Click here](#) to read the 2018 Annual Report.



# From the Principal Lila McInerney



## UPCOMING DATES

**Monday 17 June**

*Migrant and Refugee Week  
Commences*

*Parents and Friends*

*Association Meeting 4.00pm  
Community Hub*

**Tuesday 18 June**

*SCSA Cross Country*

**Thursday 20 June**

*Feast of Corpus Christi*

*World Refugee Day*

**Friday 21 June**

*Year 12 Formal*

**Monday 24 June**

*Music Recital 7.00pm*

**Friday 28 June**

*Last Day of Term 2*

**Saturday 29 June**

*Feast of St Paul*

## NCCD Information Sheet for Parents, Carers and Guardians

The Federal and State governments have changed the funding arrangements for the Students with Disabilities (SWD) Program. Please read the information included at the end of this Newsletter.

*Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God.*

Lila McInerney

College Principal

## Parents and Friends Association

A reminder that Mercy College will host the first Parents and Friends Association Meeting on Monday 17 June at 4.00pm in the Community Hub. This is a fantastic way to be involved in your daughters education at Mercy, and engage with our community.

### Winter in all of Our Lives

There is a winter in all of our lives,  
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn  
for days that have gone  
or put our hope in days yet to be.  
God of Mercy, you created seasons for a purpose.  
An endless cycle  
and yet a perfect model.  
We need a winter in our lives  
a time of rest, a time to stand still  
a time to reacquaint ourselves  
with the faith in which we live.  
It is only then that we can draw strength  
from the one in whom we are rooted  
take time to grow and rise through the darkness  
into the warm glow of your springtime  
to blossom and flourish  
bring colour and vitality into this world  
your garden.  
Thank you God  
for the seasons of our lives.  
-Adap- Author Unknown

# Mission and Identity @ Mercy



## National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week was a great success for the Seeds of Justice team and the Mercy College community as a whole. National Reconciliation Week provides an opportunity to foster positive relationships and reconcile the broader Australian community with Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The purpose of National Reconciliation Week is to reflect on our history and the pain of the past, but also to use what we have learned from these experiences to grow and become more united in the future.

On Monday, we started our week off with a liturgy in our school chapel where we reflected on our past faults and how we can better ourselves to become closer to a future in Australia where everyone is unified. The liturgy was a beautiful and prayerful way to start our week.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we watched a documentary called "Connection to Country" which investigated the many ways that mining in the Pilbara region of Western Australia has hindered the sacred connection to the land for Indigenous Australians. It was truly eye-opening experience to see how the land is being leached of its natural resources, whilst the Indigenous community mourn that their connection to what is sacred is being overlooked and diminished. It truly brought home to all who watched another side of how the mining industry has affected Australia and all who live here.



On Thursday, we partook in an informative activity; writing statistics on the ground around the cafeteria. Despite the wet and cold weather, we all learned about Australia's Indigenous heritage and the chasm that often exists between the first people of Australia and those who came to this country over 200 years ago.

On Friday, the weather was unfortunately truly against us. To celebrate our conjoined Australian history, we had planned to have a Teacher vs Student Football game on the Green. However, due to copious amounts of rain, we decided it best to postpone it. Nevertheless, the week was a great success and everyone involved reflected in different ways on how we can strengthen the bond between Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all other people who are lucky enough to call Australia home.

By Marina Labib, Social Justice Captain

## Seeds of Justice Camp Reflection

On the 23rd and 24th of May five students from Mercy College had the pleasure of attending a Seeds of Justice Camp with students from other Mercy schools across Victoria. The theme of this camp was "What is happening to our Common Home?" In order to understand the theme in a deeper way students participated in workshops and talks led by representatives from Rahamim Ecology Centre, which is an environmental education, spirituality and advocacy ministry of the Sisters of Mercy. Students learned more about our climate crisis and were asked to focus on ways to create a more sustainable future for our planet. They were also urged to find new and innovative ways to share information with the wider world about how to become more environmentally conscious. Mercy College students wrote an original rap which outlines the many ways we can care for our planet on a daily basis. They also came up with a plan to implement new and sustainable ideas which Mercy College can adopt going forward. Here's what some of those who attended had to say about the experience:



# Mission and Identity @ Mercy

At the Seeds of Justice Camp, we learned about how we are destroying our earth. The rubbish that we are not throwing in the bin is ending up in the sea and waterways. We learned that there is so much rubbish in the ocean, there is more rubbish there now than there are fish and sea animals! We also learned that plastic takes a long time to break down and sea creatures end up eating plastic as they mistake it for food.

*Eda, Year 7*



The Seeds of Justice Camp was an amazing experience and we learned so much from the activities and workshops. The camp began and ended with a liturgy which gave us time to think and reflect. We participated in activities which taught us about pollution, the solar system, climate change, climate strikes and teenagers who are making a difference in regards to these issues, such as Greta Thunberg. These activities really opened our eyes and made us aware of what is happening to our earth and that we need to make a change. One of the activities involved us coming up with one promise that we would keep in order to help us have a more sustainable lifestyle. My

promise was to buy and use a recyclable straw and I've accomplished that already! This activity made me realise that small things like this matter and will make a change.

*Isabel, Year 8*

As a member of the Seeds Of Justice team, we were given the opportunity to attend a camp alongside other Mercy schools throughout Victoria. As education is the keystone to change for the better, representatives from Rahamim spoke to us about what they do at their organisation and how we could take some of these ideas back to our school. Working with like-minded youth enabled us to learn more about today's society and how we as young individuals have the capacity to help make a positive difference to our future. We learned about the endeavours of other young people such as Greta Thunberg and Molly Steer and how they do their part to help create a better world for all. This camp was an eye-opener for many of us. We are the future and it is up to us young people to be able to make it to the fourth second of existence for our planet.

*Rhea, Year 9*

## The D.I.Y Rap

If you wanna be a D.I.Y queen, weave your own baskets you know what I mean?  
Make your own toiletries, bathbombs and soaps, so you don't smell, don't be a dope.  
Up-cycle clothing you don't want to sell. make your own pencil cases, they'll look really swell.  
Sew your own scrunchies, reuse stationary, don't let it go to waste, if reused it can be!

Plant your own vegetables, fruits and herbs, have your own pot plants to jazz up the 'burbs.  
Why not whip up some cleaning supplies? Use essential oils, so they smell nice.  
Start your own compost, using whole food waste, get worms to eat it, they love the taste.  
Hand-make your clothing, learn how to knit, it's a fun way to spend time when you sit.

There's so many things you can do D.I.Y, we've got you started, why not give it a try?

# Director of Curriculum and Pedagogy

Vanessa Folino



## Semester 1 Examinations

The examination period is over however students should not be done with thinking about their examinations. Self reflection with the script and answer key helps students understand their performance. It is important to reflect on what worked well and what could be improved. This reflection needs to happen when the script is returned. The students should engage in a discussion with classmates and teachers in regards to content, skills or study strategies in order to improve future learning. Students must think about what changes they could make in order to improve their examination preparation skills and in turn performance.

## Semester 1 Summary Reports

Semester 1 Summary Reports will be available on PAM on the last day of term. The Semester 1 Summary Report for students in Years 7-10, reports on student achievement against the Victorian Curriculum. The Semester 1 Summary Report for students in Years 11 and 12, reports on student achievement against the VCE/VCAL outcomes. These reports provide an overview. It is always important to engage with the ongoing feedback available via PAM as this provides the opportunity for affirmation and recommendations regarding what students can be do in order to achieve greater success. If parents/guardians don't have access to the Internet they can request a hard copy. Hard copy request forms can be accessed via the following link

To access the Interim Report for Semester 1 2019 online visit <http://pam.mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au>.

To access this site use the PAM username and password. To open the report, click the student name then click Assessment Reports on the left.

## VCE/VCAL Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Parents/guardians with students undertaking VCE/VCAL are invited to attend the Parent/Guardian Student Teacher Conferences July 23 from 4-8pm. Year 12 students sit the English examination October 30 and the languages and performance examinations commence October 7, therefore this is the last formal opportunity to discuss academic performance and talk about strategies that can be implemented in order to improve outcomes. Appointments can be made online via PAM, select the student and click on the interviews icon on the right.

## Subject Selection 2020

The current Years 9, 10 and 11 students will be provided with the Curriculum Handbook at the beginning of Term 3. They are encouraged to take time to read about the various subject offerings and make a list of questions. It is important the students make informed decisions and speak to the right people. To ensure the best outcomes students need to go into their 2020 subjects with confidence and commitment to the learning that needs to take place.

## Key Dates to Note

July 22 - Current Year 10 students commence program counselling sessions

July 30 – Parent/Guardian and Student Information Session and Year 10, 11 and 12 2020 Subject Expo  
6.30pm

August 6 – Submit draft of 'My Studies Pathway 2020' signed by parent/guardian

August 6 – Due date for Unit 1&2/Unit 3&4 Acceleration Application

August 6 – Due date for online subject selection

*We all need people who give us feedback. That's how we improve.*

*Bill Gates*

# Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Maureen Fogarty



### Post Assessment Reflection

At Mercy College, our students' engagement and wellbeing is at the heart of who we are and what we do; in and out of the classroom. All staff here at the College share this in common with you, their parents/guardians- a desire to help these young women of Mercy to be and to do their best. In light of this, I ask you to have a conversation with your daughter (her mobile out of sight and her AirPods in her pocket!) about how she has found this busy assessment time. For our Year 7's and 8's this entailed tests and Assessment Tasks and for our Year 9 to 11 this entailed Exams. Our Year 12's have been busy with SACs.

*Here are a few ideas to support a conversation with your daughter once she receives her end of semester results:*

Post Exam Reflection for Students:

- Did I start studying for the exam early enough?
- Did I have a study timetable?
- Did I finish the exam with time to check over responses?
- Are my study habits active and engaging or passive and automated?
- How can I learn from this exam?
- What active study strategies do I want to start incorporating into my routines?
- Am I using all your resources? (Teachers/Homework Help/Maths Help/Peers)
- Who do I need to see for extra help?

### Child Safe - Signing in and out of Information Centre

All students who attend the Information Centre (library) after school must sign in on the iPad set up for this purpose. Students need to select why they are there: Homework Club or Private Study and when leaving, make sure to sign out.



*Growth has not only rewards and pleasures but also many intrinsic pains and always will have.*

*Abraham Maslow*

# Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing

## Maureen Fogarty



### What's been happening ...

Student engagement is not limited to the classroom and extends everywhere at Mercy College; to our Information Centre to 'The Green', from our Performing Arts Space to our Cafeteria. Here is a snapshot, from our Daily Messages on SIMON of what has already been on offer to engage your daughter and enhance her wellbeing. Please encourage your daughter, as we do at school, to participate.

### Music

Tuesday:

Vocal Ensemble - Lunchtime PAS

Mercy Belles - Lunchtime in the Music Classroom

Mercy JRB - After school in the Rock House

Wednesday:

Mercy Voices - Lunchtime in the Music Classroom

Thursday:

Concert Band - 7:45am in the Performing Arts Space

Guitar Ensemble - Lunchtime in the Rock House

### Sport

Thursday:

Aerobics in the community Hub - remember to bring your runners!

Friday:

Cross country 7.20 back carpark

Footy on the Green at lunchtime

Volleyball try outs will begin next week after examinations.

### Crafty Club

Now that Winter is here the Crafty Club will be meeting today at lunchtime in the library. This is an opportunity to knit, crochet or weave items. We are continuing with the knitting of squares to make blankets that will be forwarded to McAuley Community Services for Women.

### Activities Week 2020

Date: Tuesday 21 April 2020 - Friday 24 April 2020

Please note these dates in your family diary as student attendance is compulsory.

As we head towards selecting our Student of the Term from all Year Levels, I leave you with this parting thought:

*Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.*

*Albert Schweitzer*



# Year 8 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Suzan El-Khoury

### Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships

This term in Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships, the Year 8 group have been exploring the topic of 'Positive Coping'. The aim of this topic is to help students use strategies that help them to regulate their behaviour and achieve their goals, assess their own personal strategies and revisit tasks with a renewed confidence. Research on resilience shows that positive self-talk is associated with greater persistence in the face of challenges, and that those who use positive self-talk are more likely to succeed in these challenges.

In their Wellbeing lessons, the Year 8 classes reflected on what self-talk is, and how to incorporate more positive self-talk into their thinking, rather than negative self-talk. One class created a collage of positive self-talk words that they can use, and then extended this into 'I am', 'I can' and 'I will' statements.

**I am** accepting, adventurous, kind, loving, bright, caring, compassionate, determined, friendly, hard-working, honest.

**I can** give it a go, put in effort, learn from mistakes, say sorry, keep trying, never give up.

**I will** do things that make me happy, take care of my family and friends.

*Chloe*

**I am** trustworthy, funny, loyal, honest, brave, energetic.

**I can** be positive, try new things, try my best, start fresh, open up, be kind.

**I will** prepare for a test, eat healthier, be organised, be kind and friendly.

*Melanie*



# Year 9 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader

## Caitlin Lamont

As you are reading this newsletter, the Year 9s have just completed their first school examinations.

### *Congratulations girls!*

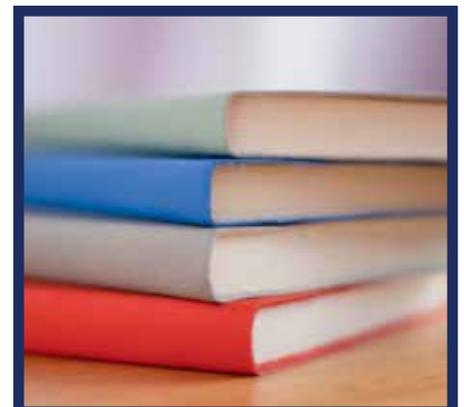
The first experience of such formal assessment has been met with good spirits from the overwhelming majority of Year 9 students. As they had been told in multiple avenues, exams are all about preparation.

Teaching staff worked with all classes for weeks in preparation.

I commend all students who self- reflected and sought further assistance from either myself or their subject teachers where required.

"I think that exams are testing your knowledge on learning. I feel both nervous and confident about my exams. I will try my best, that is what you do. As long as you practice, learn, ask questions, and help others and yourself you do the best you can."

Rebecca, 9C



# Year 10 Learning and Wellbeing Level Leader Kate Todorovic



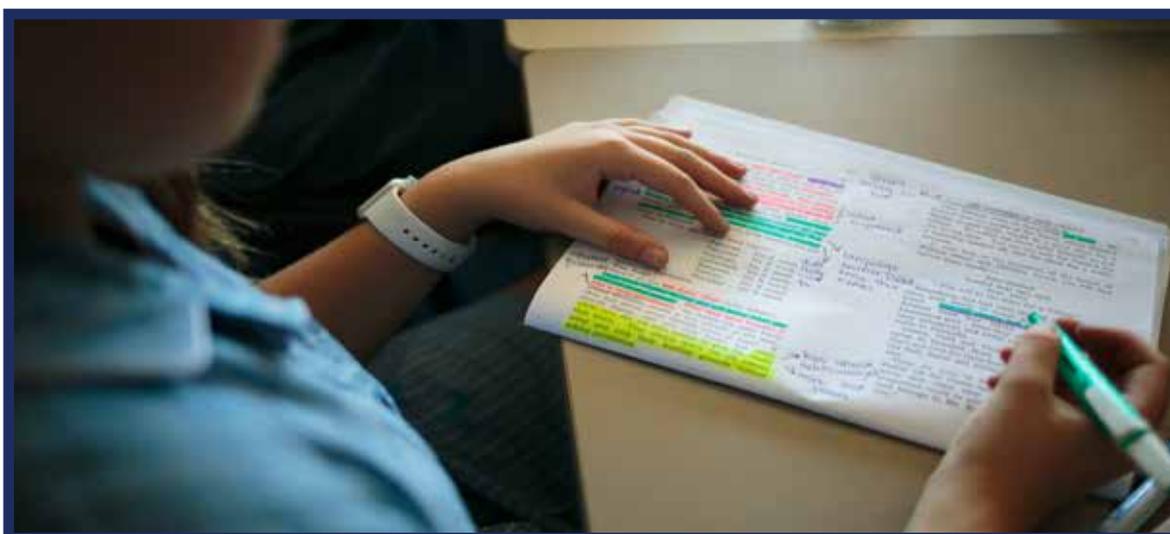
As fast as they came, exams are now over and students are almost half-way through their learning journey for 2019. As we approach the end of the semester students are asked to think and reflect on their experiences, the content they have covered, the study techniques they have learnt and maybe even a hidden talent for balancing equations in Science, a passion for Commerce or a love of History. The current year 10 curriculum at Mercy has been designed to offer a wide range of core and elective subjects aimed at providing a unique learning experience that will inform student choices as they think about VCE, VCAL, VET options.

With these experiences students gain further insight to their abilities, their strengths and sometimes their weakness. These provide great insight into decision making around VCE/VCAL studies next year. With subject selection fast approaching I ask you to stop and talk to your daughters about these experiences, potential career or tertiary educational options that await them once they have completed their secondary schooling with us here at Mercy.

Over the past two weeks I have been assisting students in exam revision in both Mathematics and Science. I have been privileged to witness first hand the students support, encouragement and overall compassion for each other. Your daughters should be proud of their achievements and reflect on these experiences in order to learn and grow.

I wish to thank the majority of students who are wearing the Mercy uniform correctly and with pride. I please ask that you are mindful that you are required to wear your blazer to and from school each day. We have seen a growing number of students now wearing our very fashionable Mercy College Trousers, an alternative option during terms 2 & 3 in replacement of the winter tunic. We appreciate that there may be a wait time for orders and asked that students continue to wear their tunic until their order arrives.

A friendly reminder that the Vicroads Road Smart Consent form is due back to your daughter's homeroom teachers by Monday 17 June 2019, in order for your daughter to be eligible to receive a free professional driving lesson.





## The impact of Volunteering in our community!

Over the course of the last six months, students from the VCAL VET Active Volunteering class have been regularly visiting ANZAC Lodge Nursing Home.

Not only do these visits form part of their requirement of a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering but also it has enabled them to become involved in the local community.

These frequent visits have allowed the students to develop their own confidence in an environment that they may not have been so confident in before, finding ways to communicate to residents who primarily only speak Italian, and getting involved in the various activities that supports the residents in using both fine and gross motor skills.

For a couple of students, the relationships that have been developed with staff at the nursing home and the maturity they have exhibited at each visit has given them further opportunities as they will be undertaking their own volunteering placement at ANZAC Lodge in the first week of the holidays. We wish them all the best.



### *Below are some reflections from the students:*

'Our experience going to the nursing home has been fun and it has been a good experience. It has been exciting to learn about the nursing home and the elderly people who live there. Communicating with them has been a hard job to do, but we all do our best. Every week we do different activities such as bowling, painting, drawing, arts and crafts, volleyball and singing. We have liked learning new things about the community, listening to the elderly sing, and helping out with them in any way we can.'

*Amelia and Christina*

'During Active Volunteering as a class, we have been going to the nursing home. We did painting with the residents and made flags. We have bowled with them and have also been playing volleyball. I like the fact that I am interacting with them and showing them how to paint. I am improving my social skills when I am interacting with them.'

*Sasha*

'During our VET Active Volunteering we have been going to the nursing home- Anzac Lodge. It has been an amazing experience so far. We all enjoy volunteering in the community and helping the people in the nursing home. We get heaps of experience with the elderly.'

*Salena*

'During VET Active Volunteering, our class have been going to Anzac Lodge to volunteer. We have been doing activities with the residents and we all enjoy doing this because we are giving back to the community and what I have got out of this is volunteering can make such a positive difference for people'.

*Francesca*



## Sport @ Mercy

### SCSA Basketball Competition

On the 29th May Mercy sent 4 teams to the SCSA Basketball competition at MSAC. 2 Junior teams coached by Mrs Lorenti and external coaches Nicole Nabbout and Christina Pizzi. An intermediate team coached by Miss Mazzone and a Senior team coached by Miss Ind. The day saw some amazing lay ups, some intense defence and every now and then a three pointer!! The Junior A and Senior teams made it to the Semi Finals!! A great day was had by all and we are all looking forward to next year when hopefully we have grown a little taller to take on our extremely tall opponents.



### SCSA Cross Country Training

The SCSA cross country team have taken on the ever unpredictable May/June Weather as they train for the upcoming Cross Country competition on 18th June. Students have trained Wednesday lunchtimes and Friday mornings in preparation for the 3km course.

Go Mercy!



## Languages @ Mercy

Education provides the opportunity to understand that people are tied together as citizens of the global community, and that today's challenges and successes are interconnected. The students of Year 9 came together for the Languages Banquet, a celebration of Indonesian and Italian language and culture. They share an authentic lunch that included: nasi goreng and krupuk, pizza and lamingtons. This experience allowed students to understand the social and cultural practices of Indonesians and Italians and also reflect those of here in Australia.

'The banquet was genuinely fun. The table decoration competition was interesting as we not only considered how we could decorate our own tables, but saw how other students' decided to showcase the culture of Indonesia and Italy'

*Belinda Superba*

'It was a great event. The quizzes throughout the lunch helped us to learn more about the culture of these two countries'

*Karen Christy Manalo*





## STEM @ Mercy

### A reflection of the STEM excursion to the Zoo

On Wednesday, 22nd May, I was involved in one of the best excursions in my time at Mercy. As part of our elective STEM class, I along with my 9 classmates and Ms Trapani went to the Royal Melbourne Zoo. When we arrived, there was a friendly zoo educator to greet us and help us through the day. We discussed some of the ethical dilemmas the zoo faces every day in keeping animals in enclosures and making sure the animals feel like they are in their own habitat – happy and thriving.

We came up with our own real life problems, and explored the zoo grounds to deepen our thinking and create ideas that would lead to developing a solution to a problem. Back at school, we were asked to bring our ideas to life – by planning, researching and creating a prototype.

My group decided to develop an app – called 'Zoogle Maps', that would help navigate visitors at the Zoo. Our idea is to provide the visitors with directions around the Zoo, where all of the animal enclosures are, the best way to arrive, and even some information on the animal once arrived to the destination.

Later this term, we will showcase our prototype to an audience – an Engineer, Ms McInerney and other staff members from the College. This has been a wonderful experience and I have enjoyed every bit of learning that is coming out of it. I highly recommend choosing STEM as an elective, as it is so different from all of the other subjects we do – it is very hands on, you get to create things that you don't even think could be possible and you get to have a lot of fun while doing this.

*Sophie, 9B*



## Careers @ Mercy

### Jobs for Youth Campaign

This is an initiative of the Inner Northern Youth Employment Taskforce (INYET) a collaborative action-oriented regional partnership working to address the issue of youth unemployment in the inner northern region of Melbourne.

The Jobs for Youth Campaign has four key elements:

1. Building the skills and attitudes of young people
2. Build the capacity of local business to support young people
3. Build stronger connections between business, schools, education providers and community agencies
4. Increase access and opportunities employment.

See [HERE](#) following link for further details

### Year 10 Next Step classes involvement in the Jobs for Youth Campaign

Currently the Year 10 cohort are involved in undertaking the Real Industry Job Interview program (RIJI). The students have been:

- Exploring their strengths and skill sets
- Exploring possible future career paths
- Exploring and identifying the key words, soft and hard skills reflected in a job advertisement
- Writing a cover letter and resume

The RIJI program culminates in the Mock Interviews held on Tuesday 30 July at Batman Royale Coburg where the



# Careers @ Mercy

Inner Melbourne Inner Northern Local Learning (INLLEN) with the support of local employers who volunteer their time as an interviewer at the Real Industry Job Mock Interview provide feedback on the student's resumes, cover letters and interview performance. This is a very valuable program that aims to provide young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to take on the current job market. Stay tuned for the report after Tuesday 30 July.

## Open Days

Open Days at tertiary institutions provide the opportunity for students and their families to:

- talk to institutions, both staff and students about courses and pathways into your desired course - you never know what you may find!
- get a 'feel' for the institution
- look at the facilities
- check out your travel time to and from the university

You can find a full list of all Open days on the VTAC website [HERE](#) - put the relevant days in your diary and work out a schedule so you can see all you need as a number of Open Days are on the same weekend/day:

## EARLY ENTRY/ADMISSIONS PROGRAMS

At Mercy College we encourage ALL students to take advantage of the early entry/admissions programs that are offered at institutions. YES, there may be paperwork involved BUT we encourage the students to find the time to complete the paperwork. Mrs Hickey, Ms Ryan and Ms Harvey are here to provide guidance and support, as it can be most rewarding and may relieve the stress of waiting for an offer once a student receives their Study Scores and ATAR if they have already been given a conditional offer through one of the Early Entry/Admissions programs.

### *Australian Catholic University - Community Achievers Program*

The program offers future students who are active in their community early entry to their undergraduate course of choice. It also provides opportunities to enhance leadership and volunteering skills. If students are successful in applying for the CAP, they could receive an offer to study at ACU as early as August.

Opens: NOW Closes: 14 August

Further details can be found [HERE](#)

### *LaTrobe University - Aspire Program*

Aspire Early Admissions Program rewards students' involvement in community, leadership and volunteering with an early conditional offer into a student's chosen course at La Trobe. This means students will know if they have a place at university as early as September.

Opens: NOW Closes: 31 August

Further details can be found [HERE](#)

## CareerNews

Please ensure that you read the CareerNews attached as it outlines many opportunities available over the upcoming school holidays and features the career of Real Estate. Previous careers highlighted have been sports coaching, primary teaching, architecture, IT programming engineer, speech pathologist and a social worker.

“  
*the best WAY*  
TO PREDICT THE FUTURE  
IS to CREATE it.  
”  
— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

# Performing Arts @ Mercy

## Caitlin Lamont



*Mercy College and Parade College are proud to announce that the 2019 co-drama production will be....*

MERCY COLLEGE & PARADE COLLEGE PRESENT

## *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST

7-30 RIVERGUM THEATRE

[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/IBDEM](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/IBDEM)



### 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare.

Thursday 29 August 2019 7.30pm, Friday 30 August 2019 7.30pm and  
Saturday 31 August 2019 7.30pm

Rivergum Theatre at Parade College  
1436 Plenty Rd  
Bundoora 3083

Tickets - \$15.00 Adult, \$10.00 Concession, \$45 Family

Reserve a seat now [HERE](#)

Auditions have been conducted at both Mercy and Parade this week with the cast announced at each college today. Congratulations to all who auditioned and we are looking forward to the hard work to come from the cast.

If your daughter is interested in applying for a spot in the crew all details will be advertised on Daily Messages, or see Ms Caitlin Lamont for information.

This year we are wanting to grow our performing arts family by involving parents and guardians in a number of ways. If you - parents, guardians, and friends - are interested in being a part of the COSTUME TEAM or the PROPS TEAM please contact Ms Caitlin Lamont via [clamont@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clamont@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au). This opportunity is not just open for parents of cast or crew members, all members of the Mercy and Parade communities are welcome to join the team. All persons involved must have a valid Working With Children Check and will be required to sign and follow the colleges' Code of Conduct.

If you, a relative or friend are a business owner we are offering you the opportunity to advertise your business in the program, professionally printed in full-colour, for \$40 or in both the program and displayed in the foyer of the theatre for \$50. We very much welcome support in this way from all types of business in our local community. Should you have any questions associated with sponsorship please contact Ms Caitlin Lamont via [clamont@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clamont@mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au) by Friday 19th July for further information and relevant documents.



# Alumni News

*I do remember asking the students why McAuley was not included as one of the House Patrons and their response was that 'Catherine belongs to all of us'.*

*Former Mercy College Principal, Mrs Elizabeth Monahan (2000 – 2010)*

## Alumni Greetings!

It has been a hive of activity over the past month. A question asked at a recent Alumni reunion and repeated again at a following event has given cause to seek assistance from our Principal, Ms Lila McInerney, to research the history of our House Patrons - Marian (Blue), Kane (Red), Frayne (Green), O'Hea (Gold), and Thecla (Purple). Students and staff are members of one of the Patron Houses which are identified in detail on our College website under Student Wellbeing.



But when were they changed and why?

The Ruby Anniversary 1965 – 2005 – Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence, provided the information that the current House Patrons came to be as part of the 2004 / 5 review of the House System and it was the Student Executive who explored the names.

Former Mercy College Principal, Mrs Elizabeth Monahan (2000 – 2010) has contributed the following:

"When I commenced at Mercy there were four Houses - Earth, Wind, Fire and Water. I cannot recall which colour was associated with each but they were green, red, blue and gold. In practice they were referred to by the colours rather than the names..... We retained the earlier colours and added purple. The students produced a shortlist of potential names and after much discernment arrived at the final five."

'I can recall the student leaders 'explaining' that their recommendations formed a thread through the history of the college along the lines of being inspired by Mary (Marian), the early Sisters of Mercy came to Australia (Frayne), eventually arriving in Coburg on land provided by the parish priest (O'Hea). The Sisters provided the first Principal (Thecla) and the College was strongly supported from its very early days by the then President of Canonical Administrators (Kane)'.

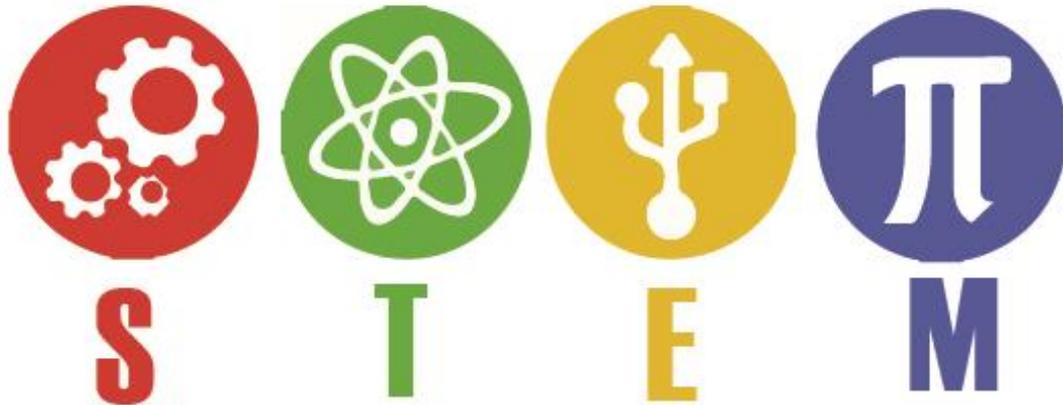
The spirit of Catherine McAuley does belong to all of us; a figure of warmth spreading goodwill to all in its reach. Sr Ursula Frayne was chosen to lead a small group of Sisters from Dublin, Ireland to Freemantle, Australia. It was through her leadership and commitment that the first secondary school for girls was established in 1846.

The symbolism of Frayne House set me thinking about our Sisters of Mercy who live in the convent next door to the College. They selflessly devote their lives to support those in need in our societies. How special would it be to share a little of their memorable times? An afternoon visit to the convent was duly organised to connect in a relaxed setting and listen as they reminisced on their journeys of service. There I was, privileged to be in the company of Sisters Margaret Conlon, Ursula Gilbert, Maureen Lohrey and Cathy Solano, falling into easy conversation over a 'good cup of tea.'



The history of previous House Systems will take more research, but for now I would like to dedicate this Alumni feature to our Sisters of Mercy, for their tireless work and service to mankind. Click [HERE](#) to read a few of the Sisters' reflections.

Diane Psaila, *Alumni President*



# Holiday Program at Mercy College

Year 4 to 6 girls  
Monday 1 July 2019 10.00am - 2.00pm

Come and join us for an exciting day of STEM activities where you can **IMAGINE**, **CREATE** and **INSPIRE** through a range of experiences with digital technologies and science experimentation!

Our program will include hands on workshops and challenges. Lunch will be provided.



## TO REGISTER:

Book online at  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BAKUN>  
\$15.00 per person

760 Sydney Road, Coburg VIC, 3058  
03 9319 9299  
[www.mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au)



## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

### What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

### Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students?
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time?

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

### What does word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from; sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the child's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different this year?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet the student's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).

# Pastoral Letter



Archbishop Peter and the Bishops of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst have prepared the below Pastoral Letter regarding Voluntary Assisted Dying, which becomes legal in Victoria on Wednesday 19 June 2019.

From the earliest times, Christ's followers have set themselves apart by their care of the vulnerable (Acts 4:34). Indeed, Christ said, "By this love you have for one another; everyone will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:35). Just as the early Christians were, we too, are called to accompany and care for those who are suffering.

On 19 June 2019, the Victorian Assisted Dying Act comes into effect. This law legalises euthanasia and assisted suicide. Despite what the law may say, our Christian tradition affirms that every life, including those of the sick and suffering, is sacred. For us, euthanasia or assisted suicide are never part of end of life care. Instead, we remain committed to: healing – never harming; relieving pain and symptoms of illness and frailty; withdrawing life-prolonging treatments when they are medically futile or overly burdensome or when a person wants them withdrawn, and never abandoning those in our care.

Here are three ways that those who conscientiously object to this law can accompany people who suffer.

## Pray (Heart)

- For those who are or may be convinced that taking their life is the only option left. May God intervene and show them His love.
- That when faced with pain and suffering – ours or someone else's – we respond with compassion and courage. May we do all we can to alleviate the pain of those around us and respect their dignity.
- Seek inspiration by reflecting on Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

## Be informed (Head)

- Read Pope Francis' [address](#) on end of life care
- Read the section on [euthanasia](#) in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 2276-9)
- Read [The Gospel of Life](#) (*Evangelium Vitae*) by Pope John Paul II (paragraphs 64-65)
- Read [Be Not Afraid](#) and [When Life is Ending](#)
- See how our Catholic health and aged care services are [responding](#) to the new legislation
- Visit [Moments that Matter](#) for real stories of people who have experienced palliative care
- Look at these websites for up to date information on the subject:
  - [Australian Care Alliance](#)
  - [HOPE](#)

## Act (Hands)

- Who do you know who is sick, disabled or elderly and may be vulnerable? Visit them, call them, spend time with them. Show that you care.
- Loneliness, loss of meaning in life and fear of losing dignity or being a burden, are the most common reasons people seek euthanasia and assisted suicide. Help to address these concerns in whatever way you can.
- Link those you encounter with support services. If you're not sure who can help, [Palliative Care Victoria](#) is a good place to start.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide will now be legal in Victoria. All of us have a role to play in caring for those suffering as well as becoming conscientious objectors by refusing to participate.

# The Saints

Many of the saints have been bold witnesses of conscientious objection – heroically holding fast to the Truth amid difficult and trying circumstances.



## Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

- Lived: 1907-1943, Austria
- Feast day: 21 May
- Patron of: Conscientious objectors

Blessed Franz Jägerstätter was a 20th century Austrian farmer. After a crisis of faith in his earlier years, he became his parish sacristan and attended Mass daily. A husband and father of four daughters, he was the only person in his village to vote against the Anschluss – the annexation of Austria by Germany during the Second World War. Rejecting the position of village mayor offered to him by German troops, he also refused to take the Hitler Oath.

Franz was called to military training in the German armed forces. However, he was able to defer service due to exemptions. He began to examine the morality of the war and decided his faith could not allow him to participate. Called to military service again in 1943, Franz declared his conscientious objection, offering to serve as a paramedic which was refused. He was arrested, jailed and sentenced to death as a result.

Numerous people including his parish priest visited him in jail to convince him to serve, reminding him of his duty as a husband and father, but did not succeed.

Before his death, he wrote: “If I must write ... with my hands in chains, I find that much better than if my will were in chains. Neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can rob a man of the Faith and his free will. God gives so much strength that it is possible to bear any suffering .... People worry about the obligations of conscience as they concern my wife and children. But I cannot believe that, just because one has a wife and children, a man is free to offend God”.

Franz was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 with his wife Franziska and daughters in attendance.



## Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

- Lived: 1922-1962, Italy
- Feast day: 28 April
- Patron of: Physicians, mothers & unborn children

Saint Gianna Beretta was a 20th century Italian doctor (paediatrician), wife and mother. As well as the busy duties of home and work, she was active in Catholic Action and the St Vincent de Paul Society. In 1961, Gianna became pregnant with her fourth child, however, a fibroma was discovered on her uterus. Doctors gave her three choices: an abortion, a hysterectomy or the removal of the fibroma alone. Gianna refused an abortion. She also declined to have a hysterectomy despite knowing she might lose her life. Wanting to preserve her child’s life, Gianna opted for the removal of only the fibroma. On 21 April, 1962, her baby Gianna Emanuela was successfully delivered by caesarean section. Despite the efforts of doctors, the mother – Gianna, passed away a week later.

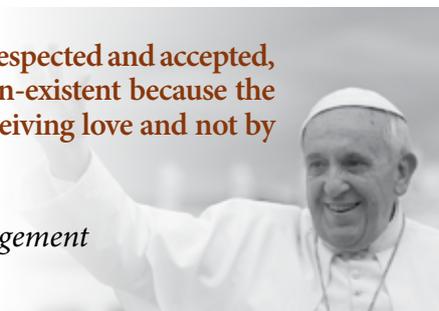
Gianna was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2004. Her husband Pietro and their children, including Gianna Emanuela, attended the ceremony. Pietro would tell Gianna Emanuela, that her mother’s choice was one of conscience as both a loving mother and a doctor. Like her mother, Gianna Emanuela went on to become a doctor.

**“Especially in those difficult circumstances, if the person feels loved, respected and accepted, the negative shadow of euthanasia disappears or is made almost non-existent because the value of his or her being is measured by the ability of giving and receiving love and not by his or her productivity.”**

– Pope Francis

*Address to Participants at the IV Seminar on Ethics in Health Management*

1 October, 2018



# ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF CSPV ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN UPDATE FOR 2019.

Term 2 has been very productive for Catholic School Parents Victoria as we continue to develop partnerships with key stakeholders. CSPV have established partnerships with Primary and Secondary Principals Associations along with Catholic Schools Guide to promote Catholic schools through a Showcase Day to be held in August this year. Partnerships with CEM continue to grow with several CSPV members on committees for the NCEC Conference and Parents as Partners Policy review. Under our **Parent Leadership** advocacy we are exploring what parent leadership means in Catholic education as we prepare to strengthen leadership capacity of parents. Please find below a summary update from Term 2 of each of our core pillars and feel free to share with your school community.

Core Pillars	Achievements April - June 2019
	<p><b>CSPV continued to build relationships with key stakeholders in education with regular meetings, collaboration and correspondence with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors and representatives in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst diocese.</li> <li>• CSPV Representatives attended Catholic School Parents Australia meeting on 25/26 May in Brisbane</li> <li>• Presented to St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield Parent Focus Group in Diocese of Sale</li> <li>• Executive Officer attended the CEM Child Safety Breakfast at CLC followed by a meeting with Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) to discuss parent engagement in child safety.</li> <li>• NCEC Organising Committee and working groups are now established and organising keynote speakers</li> <li>• Partnered with Victorian Catholic Primary and Secondary Principals Associations to organise a STEAM Showcase Day for Catholic school parents and Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools in August.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>CSPV continued to develop and work on advocacy campaigns, most notably:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributed articles to publications to build parent awareness of parent leadership in education.</li> <li>• <b>Parent Engagement</b> - Executive Officer, Rachel Saliba delivered 3 workshops to pre-service teachers at Australian Catholic University on building positive relationships and engage with parents/families. CSPV Representatives attended Parents as Partners Policy meetings and forum</li> <li>Lois Vermilya from University of New Mexico facilitated a parent forum at CSPV meeting in May.</li> <li>• <b>Child Safety</b> - Executive Officer met with CCYP to discuss resources for parents to build engagement and awareness of their responsibilities and advocacy around child safety.</li> <li>• <b>Wellbeing</b> - CatholicCare and CSPV began discussions about developing workshops for parents around developing positive relationships in schools with teachers and parents.</li> <li>• <b>Catholic Community</b> - Discussions with Catholic Leadership about availability of parent resources.</li> <li>• <b>Curriculum</b> - Exploring a campaign around early literacy encouraging reading regularly with children.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>CSPV continued to develop internal and external communication to build awareness of the work of the council and to increase membership opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Newsletter, articles and website</b> - Updating of website and articles in newsletter and diocesan publications focussed specifically on parent engagement and parent leadership in education and to encourage nominations for membership on CSPV. Articles in Catholic Education Today and Melbourne Catholic along with publications in other diocese.</li> <li>• <b>Social Media</b> - Facebook page posts to build awareness of education amongst parent community</li> <li>• <b>Marketing and promotions</b> - Catholic Schools Guide Showcase Day on 11th August 2019.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>CSPV continued to develop internal and external processes to ensure the efficient operation of CSPV:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed Governance and Finance Subcommittee</b> - Two meetings to review Constitution and Governance structure moving forward, review of budget and CSPV Handbook, member nomination process, delegate and co-opted membership parameters on CSPV.</li> <li>• <b>CSPV Delegate Membership</b> - Drafted letter and information for a members register and nomination form for Principals to nominate a contact parent in each school. Finalising this for approval.</li> <li>• Appointed new Deputy Chair for CSPV - Jodie McLeod.</li> <li>• Rod Lewis (CSPV Chair) part of a working party to advise on a Constitution By-laws review for CSPV.</li> </ul>

For further information about CSPV, visit [www.cspv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cspv.catholic.edu.au) or email [secretary@cspv.catholic.edu.au](mailto:secretary@cspv.catholic.edu.au)