Dear Parents and Carers

The Mercy College Awards Evening on Wednesday night was a wonderful celebration of the year’s significant achievements. I’m sure as parents and carers you were proud to hear of the progress made at your daughter’s school in teaching and learning, social justice and the spiritual dimension.

Our special guest ex-student Mrs Heather Clark who gave the Occasional Address, inspired us with her words about what she gained from her education at Mercy College. Heather graduated in 1987, went on to study Theatre Studies and English at UNSW and later a Diploma in Education at Sydney University. Her career has included positions in acting, directing and now she manages all school programmes at the Australian Theatre for Young People.

Heather informed us that she took away two valuable lessons from her Mercy education. One, that following the College motto of Strive for Better Things brought her great satisfaction in her career and personal life. And secondly remembering Mercy in your life; mercy to be shown to others as compassion and in the acceptance of differences.

To all students at Mercy College congratulations for working and striving to do your best this year. To those who were awarded with either academic or co-curricular awards be proud of your achievements and remember to always Strive for Better Things.

RENOSVATIONS:
For those who have been into the yard lately you will have noticed the new timber seating and chess board and how these are continually utilised by the students. To enhance this of course we need to get the new hedge, flowers and trees planted.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO EITHER RANG OR EMAILED TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS OF WHAT TO PLANT AND HOW TO ARRANGE IT.
Even though I am keen to “green” the area, the best advice has been to wait until after the heat of summer; so we won’t start the project until the end of February.

The next major project will be the refurbishment of the girls’ toilets. This will occur these summer holidays, so the girls will come back to lovely new toilets.

ACADEMIC REPORTS
Soon all families will have received their daughter/s’ Semester 2 report. I enjoyed reading the teachers’ comments of encouragement and areas for improvement, as well as seeing all the activities that so many of our students are involved in.
It is important that you discuss this report with your daughter so that she has clear goals for next year. I continually say to our students that it’s not about being number one, being top dog. It is about accepting who you are, recognising your talents, but accepting your limitations. It’s about doing the best with what you have, therefore the most important columns for you to look at are on the right hand side - the effort, homework and behaviour. If your daughter has excellent for these then you can be justifiably proud.

**STAFF LEAVING MERCY**

We farewell Mr Tom Gahan, Ms Suzanne Berkeley and Miss Robyn Anderson, who though only with us this year on temporary contracts, have shown that passion for their subject areas can inspire our students. To Ms Donna Jones whose 2 years of replacing a teacher on maternity leave comes to an end this year, thank you for your guidance and encouragement to students in the TAS faculty. To Mrs Donna D’Silva thank you for your inspiring approach to teaching Drama. Mrs D’Silva will now work as a private tutor teaching Speech and Drama at Mercy College.

I offer our prayers and good wishes to them all as they begin the next phase of their life’s journey.

Mrs Clare Dorey and Mrs Vivien Smeulders who will also leave us for a year as they go on maternity leave. We send our best wishes for this happy event.

**SCHOOL FEES 2014**

Please take the time to read the letters at the end of this newsletter about the school fees for 2014.

One letter from Peter Hamill, Director of Schools explains the Diocesan fees and a letter from me talks about the overall fee structure.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS:**

I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, parents and carers who have supported Mercy College throughout the year and worked in partnership with your daughter’s teachers.

I wish all the Mercy families the peace and joy of the Christmas season and relaxing, safe holidays.

**Best wishes**

[Signature]

Principal
As 2013 concludes, I would like to thank parents/carers for your support throughout the year. It has been a busy year with the refurbishment of the playground, the School Review and the review of the Pastoral Care system. I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to another rewarding year in 2014.

2014 Dates and Reminders

Wednesday 29 January   - New students Year 8-Year 12 9.00am – 10.30am
- Year 7 and Year 10 begin school 8.30am –12 noon
Thursday 30th January  - All students return to school
Friday 14th February   - Year 7 ID photos and new student ID photos
Tuesday 18th February  - Opening College Mass 9am

Please refer to the College website in 2014 for important dates throughout the year.

Uniform

Students return in summer uniform. Please ensure your daughters’ uniform is in good repair and the length of the dress is on the knee.

- School shoes are to be black leather lace ups.
- Jewellery, one pair of earrings in the lower lobe. All other facial piercing is prohibited
- Hair must be tied back if it touches the collar and it is to be of natural colour and a conservative style
- Make up. Nail polish, acrylic and gel nails are not to be worn

Miss L Kayrooz

Mercy Girls Inspire

Karina Brown Year 9 continues to excell in athletics.

In September, she won a gold medal for 90m Hurdles and a silver medal for High Jump at NSWCCC.

In October, Karina attended the NSW All Schools Championships, and won Silver in both events with new personal best performances. As second best competitor in NSW, she then qualified to attend the Australian Allschools Championships in Townsville, Queensland which took place last weekend.

Despite the hot and humid North Queensland weather, Karina again improved her personal best time in the 90m hurdles to place 4th, with a time of 13.31. She continued to perform well jumping 165cm to be the 6th best high jumper in Australia.

Karina is continuing to train hard for the NSW Little Athletics and Australian Junior championships in 2014.
Student News

MOney MOney MOney

Well, after another month of unattractive facial hair, Team Mercy’s Movember crew have successfully raised over $1400. Special thanks must go to the brave men who donated their upper lip to this great cause. Mr John Harmata (father of Isabelle in Year 7), Mr Eric Regoli and Mr Mervyn Jackson graciously joined the team and helped raise money to support men’s health. On Friday 29 November, the College fundraised with a BBQ which proved to be very successful. Additionally, some lucky (or unlucky) students had the opportunity to shave off a staff member’s moustache. Thank you to all staff, parents and students who donated and assisted with the promotion of Movember this year; the blokes truly appreciate your support.

Mr M Cuttler
Year 11 Co-ordinator

France Tour 2014..still time to sign up

In order to enrich our students’ cultural understanding and language skills the College is offering an excursion to France in 2014, which I’m sure will be a memorable experience. The 18 day trip is scheduled for the Easter holidays, 5th to the 22nd April, in 2014. All students in Years 11 and 12 in 2014 as well as Visual Arts and French elective students in Year 10 2014 will be eligible. The students will be accompanied by three experienced Mercy College teachers.

Please see Mrs Lennon for further information—but be quick to avoid disappointing
Student News

FROM THE TAS FACULTY

Year 9 Design and Technology have just completed their Homewares by Design unit of work. The girls responded to a brief to redesign egg cups, personalised pendants and wardrobe jewellery organisers.

Each of the products had to be made from materials containing different types of polymers (plastics).

The students were able to express their design concepts by applying the design elements as well as experimenting with different forms of polymers (thermoplastics and thermosetting plastics) and learning about their characteristics, applications and end-uses.

It was a challenging unit of work but as you can see from the fabulous variety of well-made products, the students responded to the challenge with great success.

Mrs Delia Russell
TAS Coordinator
Mamre House, in Orchard Hills, is a project of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta that envisions themselves to be a ‘place of promise where individuals are enabled to realise their potential and contribute to the community.’ In order to deepen the bonds between the five Mercy Schools of Sydney, leaders from each five schools were invited to Mamre House to partake in a leadership camp. Our college was represented by Caitlin Almada, Michelle Boyd, Shani Galluzzo and Camilla Herberstein from Year 10, for this two-day overnight camp from the 27-28th of November.

The first day, the four of us participated in a leadership workshop, with all of the attending girls. Qualities of effective Mercy leaders, and examples of exemplary world leaders were discussed. In detail, the work of Malala Yousafzii, the young Pakistani girl who was shot for standing up for women’s education, was discussed. Following this, the large group split up, to experience the normal activities of Mamre House. Michelle and I were put into a group together, where we were lucky enough to play with the Sudanese refugee children in the crèche first. The children were there as their fathers were working, and their mothers were attending an English language course next door. In the crèche, we were readily accepted by all of the children, and they were all a delight to play with. Shani and Camilla were also lucky enough to play with the children for their second activity. Shani was extremely moved by the experience and commented later that it was an extremely rewarding experience as it was a more interactive type of social justice, as opposed to donating money. For the second activity, Michelle and I went to work in the decorative garden with the volunteers and garden staff with mild disabilities. It was a real eye-opening experience to watch how the volunteers interacted with the garden staff, as they did so, accepting the disabilities of the staff, but they still treated them as adults. This was also a fantastic activity, as not only were we helping the staff, but we were able to interact with them, rewarding both us and the staff & volunteers.
Student News

Year 10 Mercy Leadership Camp at Mamre House.

The next day, upon our arrival at Mamre house, we all got stuck into preparing for the Mamre Magic celebrations. Mamre Magic is a regular activity day that allows people of all ages and abilities to try new things and to have fun. Shani and I were in part of the painting group, in which we were helping the participants paint on a canvas, an opportunity that they would not usually have. Other groups were in charge of a workshop where they were creating music with everyday objects, another was baking gingerbread men, and another was making garden art. It was a very interesting and rewarding day as we were given the unusual opportunity to interact with those in our society who have a range of mild to severe disabilities. Shani volunteered to take on the challenge to interact for the whole day with one individual. She worked with a man called Tim, who was unable to verbally communicate. To begin with, she found this challenging as she was unsure how to communicate with him, but as she spent more time with him, she began to understand him and his mannerisms, and had an extremely enjoyable and educational day.

Overall, this leadership camp was a very rewarding, educational and inspirational day. Despite its challenges, we all agree that we would attend this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity again. I would like to thank Mrs Thomas for coming with us all to Mamre House, and for giving up her time, and I would like to thank all of those who organised the camp.

Caitlin Almada
Year 10
Student News

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Gift Appeal assists people and families in need who, without our support, may not experience all that Christmas has to offer. We collected 20 Hampers. As well as over 20 individual gifts this year, by putting up a Christmas giving tree. A big thank you to the College Community for their generosity.

History and Society and Culture

Year 10 History and Year 12 Society and Culture were privileged to attend a presentation by Kylie Burch, who had recently spent two weeks in Uganda.

She shared her experiences with us, which I know we all found very interesting and enlightening. From her presentation we further understood how lucky we are to be living in Australia and realised how much we take for granted. Miss Burch travelled to Uganda with an organisation called The Hunger Project. The Hunger Project works with the Ugandan people, educating them to better their own lives. They have taught people about the importance of sanitation methods, improved farming techniques and how to attempt to achieve gender equality. One of The Hunger Project’s biggest achievements is the building of their Epi Centres which provide villages with a medical centre, maternity ward, a school and a bank. It was confronting to see how simple the lives of the Ugandan people are, from their overcrowded houses to the simple equipment and lack of technology. One woman was very proud of her drying rack as previously she would have left her dishes to dry on the ground. I never would have imagined how big an impact a drying rack could make. One aspect of Ugandan life that was made very clear, is that women do most of the work: cleaning, cooking and even collecting the food, as well as raising the children. Uganda has suffered from gross human rights abuses and remains a nation with significant issues today.

There is much we can do for Ugandans; there are many organisations that we can assist, by fundraising and spreading awareness of Uganda’s situation. I wish to thank Mrs. O’Halloran for organising the talk.

Sioned Lavery
Year 12 Society and Culture
Student News

Year 9 Contemporary Flower paintings and Year 10 Origins and Identity Installations.
Ruben Meerman Science Incursion

As part of the College’s win at the Young Master’s Scientist competition in August, we won a visit from Ruben Merman (AKA the Surfing Scientist).

Ruben presented an assortment of science experiments that were both engaging and scientific. Most of his experiments required liquid nitrogen, much to our enjoyment.

For example, in one, he pretended to freeze his finger with the liquid nitrogen, and then he proceeded to smash it. He later told us that it was only a sausage in his glove.

In addition to his experiments, he taught us the scientific formula for fat and how we truly lose weight (surprisingly it is lost through breathing). In addition, Ruben also taught us a fantastic experiment that we can perform at home. It involves using a bike pump to increase the pressure inside a plastic bottle containing perfume. In his demonstration, he used ‘Fairy Dust’ perfume by Britany Spears to create ‘a cloud in a bottle’ and then ‘Fairy Dust cloud doughnuts’.

Overall, Ruben was an extremely creative and entertaining speaker, who greatly re-ignited many people’s interest in science.

All of us would like to thank the College for their generous gifts of plasma balls.

We would also like to thank the whole Science department for their support through our whole competition journey, especially Mrs Smeulders, Mr Marshall and Mrs Lau.

By Caitlin Almada, Lucy Jimenez, Alyssa Houston and Rebecca Robertson

Debating

The Inter-House Debating Competition continues to be a success story in Term 4. Students in Years 7 and 8 participate in a round robin of debates in their House Groups. The competition is designed to develop interest in debating and to develop House spirit. The competition is fierce. This was recognised in the large audiences that these lunch-time debates attracted. It was very pleasing to see students who had not tried debating before enter the competition and become quite successful at preparing a caseline and working as a team. The winner of the 2013 Inter-House trophy is Stormanston.

Mrs R Morgan
Head of English
Mercy Catholic College will be offering private tuition in Speech and Drama in 2014 by a highly qualified, experienced and practicing teacher of Drama – Mrs. Donna D’Silva.

This program offered by the school will encourage students to be innovative, multi-skilled, reflective performers in Speech and Drama, Musical Theatre and Performance Arts.

A 45 minute group lesson will be held weekly. Lesson times are rotated to ensure students do not miss the same class lesson each week. Students will be withdrawn from class for their group lesson/tutorial with the expectation that students ensure all class work and homework missed will be completed prior to the next lesson in that subject.

The following courses will be offered in 2014 -

**Acting and Speaking:** Students may be interested in: - Speech and Drama; Individual Acting Skills; Shakespeare; Performing Text; Group Drama: Devised; and, Group Drama: Scripts

**Musical Theatre:** Musical Theatre is one of the fastest growing areas of interest within the dramatic arts. Musical Theatre is available for solo, pair, and group work. The three disciplines available are singing, acting, and movement but, as is the nature of musical theatre, students will explore their ability in these skills through integrative performance.

**Performance Arts:** Performance Arts is a subject that includes any kind of recognised performance skill, for example, acting, singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, speaking poetry or prose, mime, etc.

**Communication Skills:** This course is used it to increase confidence and skill in all modes of speech communication, whether for social, professional, or public situation. This course has proved to be a valuable addition to preparation for a range of professions such as the law, medicine, business, religion, and teaching.

The 45 minute weekly lesson will cost $180 (inc GST) per term (eight weeks) per student although the expectation is that students commit to this activity on a semester basis.

Please complete the application form to express your interest and email donna.d'silva@dbb.catholic.edu.au with the completed application. There are limited places available. A detailed co-curricular Drama and Speech registration form will be sent upon request.

**Please email or return this application form to Mrs D’Silva by Monday December 16, 2013**

Student’s Name: ____________________________________________________________

Year: __________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________________________________

Contact Details:

Mobile number _________________________________________

Email address ___________________________________________

Please circle the course(s) that your child is interested in pursuing -

Speech and Drama

Musical Theatre

Performance Arts

Acting and Speaking

Communication Skills
Activities Club

6-a-side Hockey

The six a side hockey competition ended on Friday November 29th and Mercy finished with two Grand Final winners! Congratulations to both teams.

After battling it out in a hard game, Strikeroos [Y8] had a very good 1-0 win against Pink Panthers. All the girls have come a long way with their hockey in a very short time. Congratulations to Lilian Starkey, Rachel Maggiora, Erin Humphrey, Charlotte Humphreys, Ella Kadziela, Chantell Ily, Emma Sutton and Fionnghuala Lyons. Fionnghuala was unable to play on the night due to illness and was missed very much.

The other winning team was Chicks with Sticks [Y7] who won 3-2 against Hot Pants. Hot Pants had beaten Chicks with Sticks twice before, but on Friday our girls went all out to win. This was the first time for these girls to play hockey and they took to it like a duck to water! Congratulations to Katie Stride, Kimberly Macaraig, Natasha Seeto, Rosie Adams, Charlotte Maranan, Danielle Cabubas, Jessica Turner and Crystal Niazi.

Mercy had six other teams in the competition—Wild Fire [Y7], Poison Ivy [Y7], Something Pink [Y8], Puck It [Y10], Dandy Lions [Y10] and Cuttlesticks [Y12]. Each team improved every week and had heaps of fun, which is the aim of the competition.

Many thanks to the coaches, Evie Bell, Erin Goode, Sioned Lavery and Jennifer Brady. Thank you also to the team managers, Jaqui Hester, Jaqui Parker, Leanne Thebridge, Craig Turner, Karyn Lenehan, Megan Starkey, Sharon Houston and Maggie Edwards.

Happy Christmas to you all,
Janet Lavery,
Hockey Convenor - [Retired! Looking for a new one for 2014]
GRADING SESSIONS

Thank you to all players who attended the recent Grading Sessions. We have over 100 players (U14 – Cadets) playing Netball with MCC in 2014. Next grading session will take place in early 2014.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you plan to play netball with MCC Activity Club in 2014, please email your contact details to netballmcc@gmail.com ASAP. Please send an email if you have submitted your details and have NOT received any emails from me. Information and registration forms will be emailed in 2014.

2014 CALENDAR

JANUARY

School Resumes
Year 7  29th Jan (Wed)
Year 8 -12  30th Jan (Thurs)

FEBRUARY

Mon 10 & Wed 12  (WEEK 3) Anne Sargeant Clinic (3.30pm-5pm)
U14-U16  $40 pp (max of 15-20 players)

Mon 17 & Wed 19  (WEEK 4) Anne Sargeant Clinic (3.30pm-5pm)
for Year 7 (U12 – U13); $40pp (Max 20)

Netball Grading & Uniform fitting will take place in late February. Netball Registration form will be distributed late February via Email / in School Library. Players will be allocated to MCC Netball Team upon con-

Anne Sargeant Clinic ...See above dates and details.

Anne Sargeant OAM (http://www.annesargeant.com.au) is offering her netball clinics at discounted price to MCC Netball. Each clinic consists of 2 sessions. The cost is $40 per person. Number of participants limited to 20 per clinic.

If you wish to participate, let me know via email at netballmcc@gmail.com. MCC Student Coaches – I encourage you to take this course as it will give you a good insight into coaching drills and Anne will also give you additional coaching advice. The clinics will help all players prepare for a good grading session and the 2014 Netball season.

Payment due Week 2 (Thurs 6 Feb). Due to limited numbers, places confirmed upon payment.
Activities Club

MARCH
Fri 14  (MCC STUDENT COACHES) U10 Grading day from 4.30pm
Sat 15  (MCC UMPIRES) Mature Red Robin Clinic (esp for Netta Umpires) 9am-12pm
Sat 15  (MCC UMPIRES) Red Robin Clinic 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Sun 16  (MCC UMPIRES) Red Robin Clinic 1pm- 4pm
Sun 16  (MCC COACHES) Coaching Course run by NSNA Rep Coaches 9am - 1pm
Mon 17  (UMPIRE) Level 1 Umpire Course 1pm
Sat 22  (COACHES) Netta Coaches Coaching Clinic 10am - 11.30am
Sun 23  (COACHES) Foundation Coaching Course at NSNA

APRIL
Fri 4   (MCC COACH & UMPIRE) ROUND 1 for U10's & U11’s
Sat 5   ROUND 1 for Netta & (PLAYERS) U12’s to Seniors
Sun 6   (COACHES) Development Coaching Course
Fri 11  Term 1 ends
Fri 18  ROUND 2 (U10 & U11)
Sat 12  ROUND 2 (Netta, U12 - Senior)
Fri 18  GOOD FRIDAY (No Games)
Fri 25  ANZAC DAY (No Games - school holidays)

OLD NETBALL UNIFORMS
MCC Activity Club will gratefully accept any second-hand donated uniform. If you wish to donate your uniform, (A line dress only, no skirts) please hand in laundered uniform to Mrs Kellendonk.

Merry Christmas!

With best wishes
Mrs J Parker
MCC Activity Club - Netball
Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Ed Expedition – Royal National Park

For the first time all three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - were together as a group to take on either their next, or in the case of the majority of students, their first Duke of Ed expedition. The 40 students appeared to agree that they had a memorable, if not wonderful and satisfying experience bushwalking and camping at Royal National Park, south of Sydney, in the first week of December.

Those undertaking bushwalking and/or camping for the first time were a little uncertain as to what they might experience as they set out on Wednesday morning. Fortunately, the train to Cronulla and lovely ferry ride to Bundeena were not crowded: can you imagine as suddenly 45 students and five staff boarded with their back packs virtually occupying all available cabin space.

Arriving at Bundeena, they walked the short distance to Bonnie Vale camp ground where the students set up their tents, then prepared themselves for the first day of bushwalking. After a few kilometres they suddenly found themselves 40 metres above the Pacific Ocean with wonderful views in all directions. The girls were particularly impressed with the ‘cheeseblock’, a white, flat mass of rock that looks (almost) good enough to

Gradually, they returned to Bonnie Vale where they enjoyed a paddle in the local waterway, a hot shower, then preparing their first outdoor meal, most using the ‘Trangias’. Another first for many of them was to sit around after sunset and listen to the tall stories told by Mr Cuttler and Mr Robertson, where the facts were not allowed to stand in the way of a good yarn! Finally, all went to bed not realising that several campers were to discover the importance of ensuring that their tents are indeed waterproof! Despite the rain and the wet of the night, most enjoyed a good sleep.

The following morning saw the Bronze students off on a short walk before returning to the camp ground, then collecting their back packs and heading home.

Meanwhile, the Silvers and Gold students spent the day exploring numerous coastal tracks and rock hopping, frequently stopping and enjoying the experience and the sights. Soon, they were back at Bonnie Vale and ready for another night of more tall stories and ‘true’ by the said teachers!
The third day was the final day for the Silvers so they were sent packing and homeward bound. The remaining group of four contained only Gold students. They were now required to trek with their full back packs 16 kilometres to the next camp ground: Uloola Falls. Though lacking the amenities of Bonnie Vale, they were delighted with the opportunity of walking through some spectacular bushland, then camping in a beautiful location. This was topped by also having a campfire to sit around to toast marshmallows and evaluate their favourite experiences over the last few days.

On the final day, the girls quickly packed and they made an early departure for Heathcote railway station, eager for the comfort of home. It was very satisfying hearing the girls describing their expedition experiences in the most positive terms and how they enjoyed the presence of the Bronze and Silver students. In the words of Caitlin Lambert:

‘Spending three nights and four days in the Royal National Park was anticipated to be challenging for all of us. The first two days were completed with ease, and made thoroughly enjoyable with the company of the younger Years. However, we dreaded the third day, or as we liked to call it “death day” as we were planning a 16km hike with our full packs to Uloola Falls. Without lack of access to fresh water and food rationing, it was going to be quite the challenge. By the end of the third day we were still in high spirits and were ready to permanently move to the bush and become wilderness explorers. That night we made a campfire and toasted marshmallows, enjoying our last night before returning to civilisation. Hiking only 5 kilometres on the last day back to Heathcote train station, we had walked a total of about 40km. It was an extremely challenging and rewarding experience’.

Duke of Ed expeditions are not possible without the generosity of those staff who volunteer their time and certainly their efforts. Massive amounts of appreciation to the perennially present Ms F Hogan, Mr M Cuttler, Ms D Jones and Mr M Robertson, and of course to the invaluable assistance from Mrs M Kellendonk.

Sean Marshall
Duke of Ed Co-ordinator
SCHOOLWEAR OFFER

$50 OFF
NORMAL PRICE

SCHOOL BLAZERS

NOTE:
OFFER VALID FOR 4 WEEKS!
12TH JANUARY TO 12TH FEBRUARY

LOWES

Exclusive stockists of premium quality Beare & Ley Schoolwear

A $50 non-refundable deposit is required with order if size not available at time of purchase.

PS: EXTRA 5% DISCOUNT FOR EZY-WAY CUSTOMERS
Dear Parents

Second-hand Textbook and Uniform Trading

The College is conscious of the need to provide an efficient process for families to be able to recycle their textbooks, uniforms and student resources.

I am delighted to inform you of the College’s new initiative to provide parents with the ability to trade second-hand items via the “Sustainable School Shop”. Families are assisted to list For Sale & Wanted advertisements online and the system then matches buyers with sellers. Results from other schools have been excellent; families have enjoyed a comprehensive and convenient method of trading these second-hand items.

The Sustainable School Shop is providing complimentary Annual Subscriptions until 30th November 2013 and we would encourage parents to take full advantage of this opportunity. You need to nominate the College when you register on the Sustainable School Shop website to receive your complimentary Annual Subscription (lasts 365 days).

The service provides access to second-hand textbooks, uniforms, calculators, stationery, musical equipment, etc all year round. Parents can even trade with other parents from different schools and sell items no longer in use at our College or other previously attended schools.

For the best results:
List unwanted items for sale
List Wanted Ads for those items you are looking to buy
The College’s books and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make listing ads easy
The system matches the ads of buyers with sellers and notifies the buyer (Wanted Ad) via email
Buyers contact sellers and arrange where and when to trade
Most trading will occur with other parents from the school
Parents are well supported via Sustainable School Trading’s telephone (1300 683 337) and email help lines
The system is simple and easy to use - If you don't have a computer, internet access or an email address, please call the Sustainable School Shop for assistance

You can pre-arrange the transaction and then trade after the texts are not required.

All enquiries should be directed to the Sustainable School Shop on: 1300 683 337 or help is also available through ‘Contact Us’ on their website at www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

We are very excited about this new initiative being offered to parents and we hope you will make the most of the opportunity to annually recycle your daughter’s school items.
# Canteen Roster

If you are unable to attend Canteen on your rostered day please try and swap with another volunteer.

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Would you like to occasionally join the happy team at the Mercy Canteen for a couple of hours? The girls would appreciate you being there to help serve and make fresh salads and sandwiches. The tasks are not hard and no previous experience is required. Dads and grandparents are also welcome to join the team. Come and have a good old chin wag, a laugh and a cuppa.

If you would like to volunteer at the canteen, your help would be invaluable, please fill out the attached form as there is still days to be filled.

Angela, Anna and Nancy

---

To all our volunteers a hearty thank you for all your work this year helping in the canteen. Have a safe, happy and holy Christmas.

From Anna, Angela and Nancy
Dear Parents and Students (Years 10 & 11)

On Wednesday, 11 December, all Year 10 students will be able to view and download their personal eRecord via Students Online. Students have already given their email details early this year to the Board of Studies and students will be sent an email advising them of this process from the Board.

Students Online provides students with regular and up-to-date information on their senior secondary study. As the current Year 10 cohort progresses through Years 11 and 12, it is important that they regularly engage with Students Online, and keep their email address updated.

Year 11 grades have already been placed on students’ accounts to access.

If there are any problems please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Wilson at the College.
The Fr Colin McKay Institute of Counselling, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment and in the workplace. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm – 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on Tuesday 4 February 2014. For enquires please contact:
Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 432;
Carol Harding - 9639 0096 or 0411 022 478;
Jannelle Carile - 0431 598 004 (Mon – Fri between 7.00 & 9.00 p.m.); or
Email: counselling1969@gmail.com
Community News

ENROLMENTS – Year 7, 2015

The enrolment process for entry into Mercy College in Year 7, 2015 is underway. For more information, or to download an enrolment application form please follow the links to enrolment on the College website here. Alternatively, you can contact the Office on 9419 2890 between 8am and 4pm.

Please note that whilst preference is given to current Mercy families and families within the diocesan systemic system, we must receive a completed application form for each daughter you wish to send to the College.

Operation of NSW School Zones

The CEC has been asked by the office of the NSW Minister of Education to ensure that advice regarding the operation of school zones is included in school newsletters and on school websites.

Please include the following in your last newsletter for Term 4 and place it on your website:

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the break at the end of Term 4 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted school days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days.

School zones for our school will end on 20 December 2013 and resume on 28 January 2014.

The need for blood never takes a holiday

Chatswood Donor Centre needs more donors this festive season between 23 December and 3 January to secure blood stocks for patients.

Book an appointment now to donate blood and help ensure patients get the treatment they need.

To make an appointment to donate blood call 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au

Every donation saves as many as three lives, and Christmas is the perfect time to give back to your community.

Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who donated blood this year.

To join the Mercy Catholic College Club Red group visit www.donateblood.com.au/clubred
3 December 2013

Dear Parents & Carers

Mercy College Fees 2014

Fees set by Mercy Catholic College have two components

- Diocesan fees set by the Diocese of Broken Bay and which apply to every child at a Catholic school in this Diocese;

- College fees set by the College.

I draw your attention to the attached letter from Peter Hamill, Director of Schools detailing the Diocesan fees for 2014.

The College fees for 2014 are listed in the attached Fee Schedule.

For 2014 the School Education Fee has been set to cover all curriculum resources, operating costs of the College including cleaning, grounds and building maintenance, sports expenses and all curricular excursions and incursions. Some elective courses, which are selected by students from Year 9 onwards, attract an additional fee due the expense of providing resources for these courses.

All fees have been reviewed for 2014 to ensure the charges are fairly reflective of the cost of each activity or elective course and are comparable from year to year. Optional activities such as Band membership or Music camps are separately billed as students can elect to participate in these activities.

As far as possible activities and events have been costed and booked in advance. In doing so the College hopes to avoid any additional requests to families for money to fund transport costs or school activities throughout the year. However, there may be some curriculum related excursions which may have to be billed later in the year as they cannot be pre booked or budgeted for in advance.

Students in Years 11 & 12 doing a TAFE course will be asked for an initial deposit of $1000 towards the cost of the course, with the final costs to be advised once confirmed by the TAFE. As the Government has recently announced funding cuts for some TAFE courses, there may be additional charges depending on the course selected.
School fees 2014

The Government has withdrawn funding of its computer programme for senior school students effective September 2013. As a result the College has limited funds available to replace the 400+ computers and associated technology used by our students at school, all of which has to be replaced over the next four years.

The College is currently looking at a number of future options for replacing existing IT equipment and how best to integrate technology into the curriculum in 2014 and beyond. We are currently trialling the use of iPads and notebook computers in the classroom and depending on the results of these trials, will start to replace the older computers and other technological equipment during the coming year. At this stage the College does not believe that requiring each student to purchase a computer will lead to the best learning experience within the classroom.

In order to provide the funds to meet replacement costs, the College has introduced a Digital Technology Fee from 2014 of $250 per student. All funds raised by this fee will be set aside to be used only for investment in technology and the fee will be reviewed annually as the College develops its technology strategy.

College fee accounts for the full year are issued early in Term 1, 2014. Further information on payment instalments and due dates will be provided at the same time.

If you have any queries please contact the College Bursar, Louise Turnbull, at the College office.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Suzanne Kavanagh
Principal
MESSAGE TO PARENTS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

November 2013

Dear Parents/Careers

At this time each year, following endorsement by the Diocesan Schools Board and approval by Bishop David Walker, I write to advise you of school fees and charges for next year.

The changes in fees for 2014 are necessary to meet increases in educational costs and to compensate for the freeze on grants from the State Government which was announced in September 2012.

**DIOCESAN TUITION FEES**

Diocesan Tuition Fees for 2014 will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>K – 6</th>
<th>7 – 8</th>
<th>9 – 10</th>
<th>11 – 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Child</td>
<td>$1,410</td>
<td>$1,620</td>
<td>$2,040</td>
<td>$2,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Child</td>
<td>$1,128</td>
<td>$1,536</td>
<td>$1,632</td>
<td>$1,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Child</td>
<td>$705</td>
<td>$960</td>
<td>$1,020</td>
<td>$1,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Child</td>
<td>--</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Along with contributing to salary costs the tuition fee covers the cost of NAPLAN tests for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, copyright fees, student accident insurance for school activities, internet access, download and network costs. The Diocesan Parent Council receives a $5 subsidy per family from the tuition fees to enable it to continue to provide the forums, newsletters and other activities for which it is known.

**DIOCESAN BUILDING LEVY**

The Diocesan Building Levy is to support the building of new schools and major renovation of existing schools. Most schools in the Diocese have loans needing to be serviced. The current level of this debt is $96 million. In 2014 each family K – 12 will be asked to contribute $940 per annum to help service loans.

**SCHOOL-BASED CHARGES**

Each school sets its own school-based charges. These vary across the Diocese and cover such items as excursions, retreats, sport and other school needs. I have requested principals, as far as practical, to contain school-based charges and to provide the relevant information to parents about such charges. At this time we are endeavouring to keep the financial burden on parents to a minimum.

**PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Fee payments are due at the beginning of terms 1, 2 and 3. Parents can apply to the school to arrange smaller, more frequent payments. The Diocesan Schools System has a commitment to supporting families experiencing financial difficulties. No child will be excluded from access to a Catholic systemic school due to genuine family financial hardship.

I acknowledge the generous support by families of our Catholic schools through their financial contributions to the school.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hamill
Director of Schools
# School fees 2014

**College Fee Schedule**

*Fees are per student unless otherwise indicated*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Fee Rate</th>
<th>Basis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Education Fee</td>
<td>$1,745.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Education Fee</td>
<td>$290.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective fees only:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Technology Yrs 9-12</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Technology Yrs 9-12</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile &amp; Design Yrs 9-12</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts Yrs 11-12</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Camp</td>
<td>$202.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Camp food (incl. GST)</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band fees</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Band instrument hire p.a.</td>
<td>$176.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAFE fees</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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<td>Debating</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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<td>Tournament of the Minds</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Magazine (incl. GST)</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
<td>Per Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;F Levy</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>Per Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Fee 2014</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>Per Student</td>
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</tbody>
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