Dear Parents and Carers

This week we have celebrated two very important occasions in our College calendar, our Opening School Mass and the Academic Assembly.

OPENING MASS: This was especially important this year as besides inducting our new staff and student leaders (Years 8-11) I launched our new Vision, Mission and Values statements.

Last year was a year of review as the College went through a process to ensure that we met Board of Studies requirements in the curriculum; we analysed our Pastoral Care structure and moved to vertical Tutor Groups; and teachers spent many hours discussing what we as educators want for our students, which lead to our new Vision and Mission Statements.

Vision Statement
Through excellence in education our young women become critical and creative thinkers with a sense of social responsibility and discipleship.

The Vision Statement is what we would like all our students after 6 years here at Mercy College to be; critical and creative thinkers and to have a sense of social responsibility and discipleship. In other words for our students to learn here at Mercy how to think and question and for them then to be able to accept their responsibility to act with a social conscience as a follower of Christ.

Mission Statement
The Mercy Catholic College Mission is to work within the Catholic tradition and Mercy charism, to educate, empower and inspire young independent women to achieve academic, social and spiritual growth.

The Mission Statement is what we as teachers and educators pledge that we will endeavour to do for our students. We will work within the Mercy tradition to empower and inspire students so that they will grow into independent women.

Mercy Values
To help all of us both teachers and students to take on our responsibilities to enact the Vision and Mission we need a framework to work within. Our values give us this framework.

Upcoming Events:

TERM 1
WEEK 5
25th Feb—BBSSSA Opens & U15 Touch
25th Feb—Activities Club Meeting 7pm College Library
28th Feb—College Swimming Carnival

WEEK 6
3rd March—Year 9 & Year 10 Visual Arts Excursion
5th March—Ash Wednesday 12.00—1.30pm

COLLEGE OPEN DAY
9TH MARCH 2014
10.30AM TO 2PM
ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND

SAVE THE DATE
Parents Association Annual Cocktail Party
Friday 4th April 7pm – 11pm
In Tutor Group over the last week your daughters have been discussing with their Tutor what these values mean, they were all given wrist bands with the values print on them, so that they will be aware of how we expect our students to act:

- To have respect and compassion for others
- To provide hospitality
- And to work with integrity and excellence.

**ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY:** On Wednesday of this week the High Achievers from the 2013 HSC were honoured at the College’s Academic Assembly. We had much to celebrate with Carla Wrightson achieving an ATAR of 97.7 and Alex Fleming receiving a Premier’s Award (Band 6 in 10 units of study). The High Achievers are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>ATAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla Wrightson</td>
<td>97.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Fleming</td>
<td>97.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Sutton</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Southam</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hal Sol Kim</td>
<td>94.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Rogleff</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Stanich</td>
<td>94.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Lising</td>
<td>92.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karina Yu</td>
<td>91.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All these individual achievements meant that Mercy College was ranked in the top 100 schools in the State. There are 697 high schools in NSW and Mercy College is the 95 top scoring school. That means Mercy College is in the top 14% of all high schools in the State. An achievement to be proud of!

Carla Wrightson addressed the students, explaining what she did to reach her goal, which she had set as an ATAR of the mid 90s. Her sound advice included setting realistic, yet challenging goals, using the junior years to develop her skills and that teachers were her most valuable resource in giving her guidance and support. Carla also spoke of the sacrifices that had to sometimes be made, that sometimes she had to "do the boring over the fun things", that sometimes she "sacrificed a party to get an assessment task done". And the hardest thing of all, she deleted Facebook from her phone in the lead up to the HSC, so that she wouldn’t have this distraction.

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the success of our High Achievers with the whole school. We wish them well in their new adventure of life at university.

**OPEN DAY:** is coming up on the 9 March. Just a reminder that it is compulsory for all students to attend.

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION:** The first meeting for the year was held last Tuesday evening. Our new President Lee Sternberg ran an efficient meeting where many parents heard about the academic and renovation plans for the College in 2014. Two requests that came out of the meeting:

1. Does anyone know of a suitable guest speaker for our Mothers’ Day Breakfast?
2. Please contact Lee directly by email: effectiveone2one@bigpond.com

**Best Wishes**

Suzanne Karawasgh

Principal
Message from Assistant Principal

All students are expected to attend to assist. If a student is unable to attend you must request an exemption from the Principal. There will be a day off in lieu on the 10th June.
The Opening College Mass on the 18th February celebrated the commencement of the new school year and a recommitment to the charism and mission of Mercy Catholic College. Our College Captain, Alanna Kellendonk, expressed these sentiments and linked them to the selected readings:

*Today, we gather as a community to rejoice and to welcome the new school year and all it brings; a clean slate, a fresh start, new friends, aspirations, challenges and learning opportunities. Together, may we embrace this coming year with hope, faith and enthusiasm.*

*Today’s Readings and Gospel, implore us to ‘trust in the Lord with all our heart’, ‘to lead a life worthy of our calling, bearing with one another in love’ and to ‘abide in God’s love so that we may bear much fruit and so that our joy may be complete’. Our College motto directs us ‘to strive for better things’. May we move forward nurtured by God’s love, directed by our faith tradition as committed members of our Mercy community.*

We were fortunate to have Father Paul Finucane preside over the mass and were joined in prayer and celebration by dedicated parents and carers and special guests Sr Anna Koeneman, a member of Sisters of Mercy Congregation Leadership Council and a former teacher of the Mercy College, Sr Anne O’Brien, Dr Mark Askew, Head of Educational Services, Diocese of Broken Bay and Ms Lee Sternberg, the President of the Parents’ Association.

A special part of the mass was the presentation of the Student Leaders, the induction and blessing of new staff and students to the College and the launch of the new College Mission statement and College values. The College Choir and instrumentalists, led by Mr Mark Wong and Mr Matthew Robertson, sang beautifully and we thank them for their support of the liturgical life of the College and their service to our community.

*Ms Catherine Davis*
*Religious Education Co-ordinator*
Year 7 Camp

Vision Valley Arcadia was the beautiful location for our two day Year 7 camp. The girls were divided into 6 groups and participated in six different outdoor activities; water slide, leap of faith, canoeing, low ropes, wilderness challenge and the flying fox. During this time the girls got to know each other and everyone made new friends. It was a unique experience and each student faced the variety of physical challenges under the guidance of their group leaders with enthusiasm and as a valued member of their team. There were also opportunities for the girls to discover more about themselves and the potential they have as young Mercy women. Thank you to the teachers who accompanied us on the camp; Ms Kayrooz, Ms Munro, Ms Knight-Smith, Ms Paton and Mrs Mooney. We all enjoyed ourselves and appreciated the chance to get to know more of our very special Year 7 group.

Mrs Reid
Year 7 Co-ordinator
Student News

Swimming Carnival

On Friday 28 February, the Annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be held. Lane Cove Aquatic Centre will host the carnival with students travelling to and from the venue via hired buses. All students must be at school by 8.35am so that rolls can be marked prior to them boarding the bus.

Students must wear their full sports uniform (including shoes) to school and may then change into more colourful attire. If students do not have a complete sports uniform, the College uniform must be worn to school. For students who live close to the venue and wish to depart from the pool, a signed letter from the parent/carer must be submitted to the student’s Year Co-ordinator at the beginning of the day.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of swimming strokes throughout the day and if time permits, some novelty events may also be organised. For those students who wish to swim competitively and want to be considered for Age Champion, they will need to participate in the Championship Events. For those who simply want to ‘jump in for a swim’, participation races will also be scheduled. The College encourages all students to swim in at least two events throughout the carnival so they can earn points for their Colour House and be involved in the spirit of the day. A one piece swimming costume should be worn and sun/rash shirts are also recommended. If a student’s swimsuit is deemed inappropriate by staff, they will have to wear a shirt provided by the College.

Although the kiosk will be operating at specific times throughout the day, students are encouraged to bring their own food and water with them. Sunscreen and first aid will be provided. Additionally, personal medication and protective clothing should be part of every student’s belongings to ensure they enjoy the day.

If you have any questions about the Swimming Carnival, please contact Mark Cuttler on mark.cutlter@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Mr M Cuttler
Head of PDHPE
Student News

Happy Feet

Due to popular demand the Walking Club will commence on Wednesday 26th February. We will walk Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtime. Meeting at the front gate by 1.30pm.

Please collect a permission note from outside the Coolock staffroom.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Cary.

Happy Walking!!

Homework Club

Every Tuesday straight after school is the Homework Club. This is held in the Library from 3.10pm to 4.30pm. All students are welcome to attend no booking required. Along with a teacher present to provide assistance there will be Library resources and computers for your needs.

This will be of great benefit to you so please come along.

Homework Club Teachers

Travel Concession 2014

There has been quite a delay in issuing some passes as Students have changed addresses since last year and not informed the College.

It is very important that the office is advised of this information as soon as any details change. Please have your daughter go to the office to obtain a Change of Student/Family Details form.

Most passes have been despatched however we have been informed that Trans Dev Bus company are delayed with issuing their passes. The students that travel on these buses are allowed to travel free until we receive the passes. When they are received we will place them in the students Tutor group.
Student News

Year 11 News

I’ve been very pleased to see Year 11 beginning their senior courses with enthusiasm and I congratulate them for their determination to do well.

On a broader level, on Monday all of Year 11 participated in a workshop, A Day of Hope, presented by Greg Gerreyn from the Oxygen Factory. Greg’s focus was to encourage your daughter to be committed to her goals and dreams since, as he correctly pointed out, if she is not committed to those dreams how will she convince you and others that she is.

Some valuable advice that came through from the workshop was that there are many ways to achieving your dreams and ambitions. Just because one avenue may not be successful then try another one. The process of failing develops our compassion and empathy for others and the main message was not to ever give up on your dreams.

The following quote was given to the girls as motivation to commit fully to whatever they embark upon, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do then by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” Mark Twain

Some feedback comments from the day are given below and I encourage you to discuss with your daughter her vision for her future.

Tracey Stancliffe
Year 11 Co-ordinator

"I picked up from the day that even if you fail many times you pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start again." Florence Basmajian

"It was one of the best incursions! In a car why is it that the front window is bigger than the rear view mirror = because you’re meant to look to your future and forget about the past.” Maral Boyadjian

"All of your dreams are achievable if you want them enough and you are willing to work for it.” Ruby Grudzinskas

"Motivations come and go but you shouldn’t let this side track you from achieving your dream.” Elizabeth Jackson

"Never give up on your dreams and dream big. Put everything on the line like you have nothing to lose and that way you don’t regret anything.” Belinda Liong

"It’s okay to fall as long as you fall down 7 times and stand up on 8.” Annabelle Hampson

"Never give up on your hopes and dreams, failure is only part of the process to achieve them.” Mari Sasaki

"Every day is a new day, don’t worry about things in the past.” Alyssa Houston

"The grass is greenest where you water it.” Tyler Muga

"We should not give up when we fail. Failure is important, it makes us stronger.” Michelle Boyd

"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” Denise Cordoba
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

GRADING

GRADING takes place at **7.15AM** on the SCHOOL NETBALL COURT
Tuesday 25 Feb  7.15am  GRADING for U13 (Year 7)
PLEASE plan to be on court by 7am. This grading is to finalise remaining vacancies in some teams.

NEW UNIFORM

Tuesday 25 February at 7.15am. Meet us at the Undercroft please. Payment can be made on the Registration form. If you have not paid, please pay MCC Activities Club. Specify that it is for the uniform only, $70 and your daughter’s name.

HELP!

I will need a few parents (mums, dads or carers) to help on all of the above mornings. Assistance is required to organise the girls into pre-allocated groups. Timing is 7.15am - 8.30am. If you can assist, please email me on netballmcc@gmail.com

REGISTRATION for 2014

Registration forms have been out since Week 2. You may collect them from the Library or email a request to netballmcc@gmail.com. Payment is required to activate the registration. **A completed registration form is still required for those who completed/participated in 2013 grading in December.**

Netball Convenor Jacquie Parker & Netball Coach Convenor Sharon Houston
Parent News

Head Lice

There have been a few cases of Head Lice reported. Can you please check your daughter’s hair and treat if necessary as they are very contagious. If you are uncertain as to what they look like and how to treat them there are a few good articles on the Internet one being www.medinicinenet.com/headlice.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Administration Office

---

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week a senior student in a Broken Bay school used the "DBB all-students" facility in Google mail to send emails to all students in systemic schools in the Broken Bay Diocese. It was then viewable by any student who had a Gmail account. The emails may have been viewed by your son or daughter. Action has been taken immediately to block any further use by students of the ‘all-students’ function and steps are being taken to prevent any student from utilising the auto generated groups within Gmail to send a group email to other students. I regret that this intrusion occurred and any concern it caused your son or daughter.

Dr Tony Bracken
Assistant Director School Improvement

---

Further Information on IT issues

The provision of resources and advice around Cybersafety for parents has been an important focus for us. The hyperlinked folder below contains 6 Parent Information Sheets from ACMA that you will find very interesting. These are:

- ASK FM
- INSTAGRAM
- TWITTER
- FACEBOOK
- KIK
- TUMBLR

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B1xmKJKYLNzOckctYl3Y0ZCZzg&usp=sharing
Parent News

Dear Parents,

Tickets to the Parents Association Cocktail Party are on sale NOW and selling fast. Buy your tickets today! This is the main event for the Parents Association for the year so be sure not to miss it.

Kind regards
Lee Sternberg

ASH WEDNESDAY SPECIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penne Pasta Napolitana</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna Mornay &amp; spiral pasta</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Burger</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiche Florentine</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Roll (vegetarian)</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach &amp; Ricotta Roll (vegetarian)</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Lasagne</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seafood Salad</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Rolls</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza – Margarita</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hash Brown</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Sandwich</td>
<td>$2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg Sandwich</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese Salad Wrap</td>
<td>$3.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canteen News

Ash Wednesday is on 5 March. There is an Ash Wednesday Menu attached below as the canteen will not be serving meat products on this day.
# Canteen Roster

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>24/2-28/2</th>
<th>3/3-7/3</th>
<th>10/3-14/3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon</strong></td>
<td>Erika Keri</td>
<td>Lisa Coyne</td>
<td>Sandra Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Required</td>
<td>Volunteer Required</td>
<td>Kym Bult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tues</strong></td>
<td>Una McCloskey</td>
<td>Louise Burton</td>
<td>Laverne Saunders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khatra AhMad</td>
<td>Tammy Smith</td>
<td>Maryanne Doban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reezai (9.30-11.30)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marion Parrott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wed</strong></td>
<td>Leanne McCarthy</td>
<td>Carmel Daniels</td>
<td>Sophia Apostolopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joanne Barquin</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Megan Starkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs</strong></td>
<td>Kathy Grudzinskas</td>
<td>Patrice Rodrigues</td>
<td>Peta Thornton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miranda Harmata</td>
<td>Carmel De Mesa</td>
<td>Volunteer Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irene Lavermicocca</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fri</strong></td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Khatra AhMad Reezai</td>
<td>Arezoo Khorram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ilune Tjiong</td>
<td>Kristine Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Joanne Sharpe</td>
<td>Cathy Schafer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Isabel Dias-McCall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you considering volunteering at the canteen there are days that are available to be filled please fill in the form below and join the happy team it is a great way to meet new parents.

**Mercy Catholic College Canteen**  
*(please return to School Office)*

I am able to volunteer in the canteen. My preference day is: (please circle)  
**Monday**  **Tuesday**  **Wednesday**  **Thursday**  **Friday**

I am able to do: (please circle)  
**Once a Term**  **Twice a Term**  **Once a Month**

Name: ___________________________  Phone____________________________
Daughter: _________________________  Year in 2014 ______________________