Dear Parents and Carers

I am looking forward to welcoming all our visitors on Sunday for OPEN DAY. Don’t forget to tell those interested in sending their daughter to Mercy that we are open from 11am to 2pm and that it is a great opportunity to see the Mercy Spirit in action.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday as you know marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Our students were reminded at Mass on Wednesday that ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

All our lives are just so busy – students have sport training, choir and band practice, homework, assignments, fitting in parties with family and friends. As adults our lives are consumed by work and family commitments. Always rush, rush, rush.

I challenged our students at our Ash Wednesday liturgy and I ask our parents and carers to do the same; to make this time leading up to Easter a time to reflect, slow down a bit and think what can I do that demonstrates my faith and Christ’s teachings, that we need to accept our responsibility to help others who are less fortunate.

So yes giving up something you like such as chocolate, cappuccinos or your favourite TV show that is wonderful, but what are you going to do with the money you save from not buying chocolate or a coffee and the time you save from not watching TV. I would like to see our community being pro-active. Give that saved money to project compassion and with the extra time volunteer to help others. Do something extra for someone else.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

Tomorrow the 8 March is International Women’s Day. It celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.
You might ask the question in this day and age why we need an International Women's Day. Women’s equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. We need to tackle difficult questions such as: how can we increase the number of young women in leadership positions? Why don't young women have the same access to employment and participation in decision-making as young men? Hopefully International Women's Day will spark these debates and steer public opinion. That's why we need it.

Happy International Women's Day to our students, staff, mums, grandmothers and aunties.

Best Wishes

Principal

Keira Austin is a Year 11 student, has been selected for the U/17s State Netball Championships to play at national level in Melbourne in April this year.

Along with her Year 11 studies, Keira trains for 3 hours, three times a week and has a game each weekend. This is an outstanding achievement.

Well done Keira and we look forward to you playing for Australia!!
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.

OPEN DAY
Sunday 9 March 11am-2pm
Catholic Girls Secondary College
Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning
HSC top 100 schools in NSW
Swimming Carnival

Drenched in determination!

On a day when most ducks were probably hiding, many brave, resilient and determined students of Mercy Catholic College ensured the Interhouse Swimming Carnival was a success. Despite the miserable weather, student participation and enthusiasm became infectious. Furthermore, students’ positivity and House spirit amidst these poor circumstances was admirable and duly noted by all staff. As the buses arrived at Lane Cove Aquatic Centre, a swarm of LA Lakers, Super Marios, Hawaiians and Frozen Ice Queens cheered their way to the stands in anticipation of the contest ahead. Aside from the battle that was to ensue in the water, many were equally concerned about the House cheering routines they had been tirelessly rehearsing. Once again, the performances were entertaining and proved to be a highlight for both staff and students. After much deliberation, McAuley were successfully crowned Cheer Squad Champions after their creative Hawaiian routine.

From the poolside to the pool, the action soon intensified with many swimmers eager to prove themselves and earn points for their Colour House. In one of the first races of the day, an inspiring Lauren Hilder smashed the Under 12 Breaststroke record and was on her way to securing the Champion Swimmer of the carnival trophy with five consecutive gold medal victories. Sophie Bernes was another notable swimmer who managed to triumph in all her races and earn her House more than 60 points. It would also be remiss not to mention the many other swimmers who fought hard throughout the day in the Championship Events without success.

Aside from the competitive races, students were also encouraged to partake in participation races that were not timed but still contributed to House points. Throughout the carnival, more than 200 points were earned from these races which highlights the enthusiasm and spirit present in many students.

Although Coolock, McAuley and Mercy were keen to avenge their many previous defeats in the pool, Stormanston once again lifted another gear to produce an incredible 300 point win. Out of the 70 students who competed in Championship Events, almost half of these swimmers were from Stormanston. They have developed a culture where they consistently encourage all their students to participate in as many events as possible, regardless of ability. Clearly, this culture is successful. Well done Stormanston!

Congratulations and thanks must also go to all students for their determination and positive attitude in ensuring the carnival was not drowned by the unfortunate weather conditions. Additionally, thank you to all staff who not only performed their duties without complaint, but who also engaged in the interesting House themes with some very imaginative costumes.

Champion House: Stormanston
Champion Swimmer: Lauren Hilder

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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<td>Marie</td>
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<td>Lambert</td>
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Swimming Carnival
Student News
EXCITING NEW ADVENTURES IN DRAMA

This year has marked an exciting start to Drama for 2014 and we would LOVE you to come along for the ride.

THEATRE PILGRIMS
The Theatre Pilgrims aim to expose students, teachers and staff to the joy of the theatre. Students, parents and staff at Mercy are invited to attend the following productions this year. If you wish to be part of The Theatre Pilgrims, please collect a note from the boxes outside the Drama Space and return it to Mrs Gill. You will then receive an email to confirm your interest and payment details. Only those that return money by the due date for each production will be guaranteed tickets. Hope you can make it!

Twelfth Night @ The Seymour Centre - 4th April: Students $25, Adults $32. For more details visit http://www.seymourcentre.com/events/event/twelfth-night/

Strictly Ballroom @ The Sydney Lyric Theatre - 22nd May: Students $55, Adults Approx. $115 (A Reserve Tickets). For more details visit http://www.strictlyballroomthemusical.com (Subject to interest)

The Rap Guide to Evolution @ The Sydney Opera House - 20th June: $25. For more details visit http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/rap_guide_education.aspx

Sugarland @ ATYP - 5th September: $30. For more details visit http://www.atyp.com.au/whats-on/productions/sugarland

Children of the Sun @ Sydney Theatre Company - October (Date to be advised): Approx. $70. Recommended for students from year 9 up. For more details visit http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au/whats-on/productions/2014/children-of-the-sun.aspx

Wicked @ Capitol Theatre - November/December (Date to be advised): Approx. $120. For more details visit http://capitoltheatre.com.au/index.php/whats-on/coming-soon/Wicked

MICE PRODUCTIONS
Mice Productions is Mercy's newest extra curricular activity. It aims to teach students how to use film as a platform to tell their stories and the stories of the wider school community. Students will learn how to create films with integrity, compassion and excellence through critical and creative thinking.

Students will meet weekly (every Wednesday at lunch) in the Drama Space. During this time they will be introduced to the world of film, explicitly taught film making skills, work collaboratively on their own films and discuss each others' work as critical friends.

Interested students from Years 9 – 12 should see Mrs Gill for more information. An information session will be run next Monday at the start of lunch in the Drama Space.

THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SCRIPTS
Shhh! Don't tell anyone, but we are launching The Secret Society of Scripts. The Secret Society of Scripts aims to increase student's love and understanding of the texts that are essential to theatre. Students will also develop their theatrical writing skills as they learn to manipulate the elements of drama through script.

Students meet fortnightly at lunch (every Day 5) in the Drama Space. During this time they will be introduced to a new text to read and review over the fortnight, explicitly taught dramatic writing skills, work collaboratively to create scripts and discuss each other's work as critical friends. Students will also work towards entries for the 'Fresh Ink' writing competition at the Australian Theatre for Young People (http://www.freshink.com.au) and the 'Fast and Fresh' short play competition at Riverside Theatre (http://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/fastfresh-theatre-3/).

Interested students from Years 7 – 12 should see Mrs Gill for more information. An information session will be run next Monday during the second half of lunch in the Drama Space.

If you have any further questions about the above activities please do not hesitate to contact me at amy.gill@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Mrs A Gill
Drama Teacher
Year 9 Food Tech 2014 Botanic Gardens Excursion Recount

Year 9 Food Tech are studying “Food in Australia” or “Bush Tucker”, so in collaboration with this unit we went to the Royal Botanic Gardens in the City, on Friday 14th February, which was also Valentine’s Day.

We started off the day at school and at 9:00am we headed off to the train station. I was a little nervous as I approached the ticket stand since it was the first time I would be purchasing a ticket and boarding a train by myself. When we got off we had to walk from Wynyard Station to the Botanic Gardens. We passed so many big buildings and crossed so many streets. When we finally got there, I was pretty relieved (and tired) and I noticed interesting statues, sculptures and fountains as we walked to the Education Centre.

Once inside, the first thing that hit me was the horrible smell of kangaroo. I made the decision not eat it because I was worried that it might taste as bad as it smelled. After being split up, we were introduced to Patty, who gave us a brief introduction to the Aboriginal people. We then did some cooking with some native ingredients. I absolutely loved the popcorn with the bush tomato seasoning. The flavour was incredible and I kept going back to the bowl for more. We also made toffee with macadamia oil and lemon thyme and damper with wattle seeds. We then switched with the other group and went on the tour.

Our tour guide’s name was Clarence and a native Aboriginal. He was pretty funny and he started off the tour with some bad jokes like “Why was the sand yellow? Because the seaweed.” He showed us around the Gardens and I remember seeing a range of different native plants. My two favourite plants that I saw on the trip were the lotus flower because they smell amazing and pineapple sage because they smell like pineapple, mango and passionfruit, if you rub your hands on the leaves. I also learnt two new words; mucilaginous, which means has a consistency like mucus, and cauliflorous, which is the ability to grow fruit or flowers straight from the trunk.

After the tour we went back to the Education Centre where we had a selection of dishes to try. Sadly, there was no more bush tomato popcorn. I tried everything; the damper, the toffee, even the kangaroo. I was surprised by how good the kangaroo actually tasted and, after my first bite I must have gone back at least 5 times for another piece. Clarence then played the didgeridoo and made up a rap about our school, saying thank you for coming.

We finally said goodbye and made the long journey back to the station, after a picnic lunch beside the lake filled with eels. We boarded the train back to school, after a long, tiring and delicious day.

I really enjoyed the excursion to the Botanic Gardens. When I got home that day, I begged them to buy bush tomato so we could make the delicious popcorn. I was really glad that I went and I think that the experience encouraged me to try new and different foods and cook with a different range of ingredients. Now that I know how, I might add a few native ingredients into my own cooking.

Reese Meridores, Year 9
Touch Gala Day

Whilst most students avoid arriving at school before the first bell, twenty-two keen Touch players boarded a mini-bus before 7am and headed north to Woy Woy for the Open and U15 Touch Gala Carnival. Whilst some girls had experienced Touch in a competitive environment, many were venturing into unknown waters. Woy Woy once again turned on the heat and humidity but to the student’s credit, they persevered in these relentless conditions and always played with enthusiasm. Both teams played against some very talented teams from St Joseph’s Catholic College, Gosford East, Stella Maris College, Manly, St Peter’s Catholic College, Tuggerah Lakes and Mackillop Catholic College, Warnevale.

Despite leaving the carnival without a win, an Open’s draw in their second match and five brilliant tries was proof that Mercy girls could compete successfully in a demanding tournament. Jennifer Lambert, Nicole Stuart, Georgia Kiss, Lauren Soutar and Emma Santana were rewarded with a try each after some spectacular lead-up and attacking flair from their teammates. It is worth mentioning that all players from this year’s Gala day will be eligible for selection next year which will hopefully result in more success in 2015.

Thank you to all students who were selected for this carnival; you displayed admirable Mercy values and qualities. Additionally, thanks must also go to the 25 students who trialed for selection but were unsuccessful.

Mr M Cuttler
PDHPE Co-ordinator
The Bronze and Silver students should currently be well advanced in their preparation for the coming expedition to the bushland surrounding the Glenbrook area in the lower Blue Mountains. As indicated in the permission letters to parents and guardians, the expedition shall be held over **13 to 14 March for Bronze**, and **13 to 15 March for the Silvers**. At this stage, money, permission slips and medical forms should have been returned to Mr Marshall. All required equipment, including food and clothing, should be now well and truly organised. **Students are required to meet at the main ticket counter in the Country Link section of Central Station before 7.20 am on Thursday, 13 March.** Students have received maps of the station to ensure they know the designated meeting spot. Maps of the trails and camping area have also been issued to students. Parents are encouraged to review each of these maps.

Of particular importance, however, are the tents. On the practice expedition, held in December last year, several students used tents that were of inadequate size, but more significantly, were not waterproof. This occurred despite all the notification that had been provided regarding the importance of using only waterproof tents. On this expedition, it did rain and the resident students inevitably became wet. The comfort and safety of your daughter is vital on these expeditions and it is essential that parents actively participate in ensuring that not only tents, but all equipment, food and clothing are suitable for the expedition. Lists for items these have been issued. In this regard, despite the current forecast for dry weather for the coming expedition, please ensure your daughter is fully prepared in the event of rain. This will include packing wet weather gear and using large plastic garbage bags to line back packs. Your daughter has been instructed on other appropriate measures in the event of rain.

Please be aware of the organisation that goes into the planning of any expedition. This includes camping areas requiring up-front payments of fees and involves a promise of a certain number of students who shall be attending. Preparation also includes the need to book travel, organise teacher support, prepare adequate equipment and materials, and so on. With this in mind, **if a student cancellation occurs within seven school days of the expedition, only 50% of the expedition fee will be refunded.** If the **notice of cancellation is less than 48 hours, no fees can be refunded.** This is necessary because the Award within Mercy College is self-funded and all attempts to minimise expenses are made to keep it as economical as possible for all participants – late cancellations means expeditions may well run at a loss, resulting in higher charges on subsequent expeditions. We hope that parents understand and support this policy. If the expedition is cancelled due to Extreme or Catastrophic bushfire conditions, the money for the expedition will be held to pay for an in lieu expedition at a later date.
Once the expedition has been completed, students are then required, as per Duke of Ed guidelines, to **write a concise log on the expedition**. Again, your daughter has been provided with specific instructions of the various items that must be included. This is to be submitted to Mr Marshall on the second Monday following the expedition (24 March). Each student is to also upload their log to the ORB. (Online Record Book)

On other matters, several students are close to finishing their Bronze Award requirements and have expressed interest to continue with the Duke of Ed and start their Silver Award. It is anticipated that all interested students attempt to complete their various requirements as soon as possible and speak to Mr Marshall or Mrs Kellendonk. **All Awardees must also ensure they frequently update their Online Record Books** (ORB). A requirement of the award is to Complete logs on the ORB.

Next, all people who wish to qualify as **assessors** and assist the girls to undertake the various activities **must read and complete the required assessor volunteer guidelines**, then return these to Mr Marshall or Mrs Kellendonk. This is of vital importance and I ask parents to also ensure that this has been undertaken. Such forms have been made available to students and can also be accessed on the Duke of Ed website.

Finally, several parents of this year’s Year Nine students have expressed interest regarding when their daughter may begin the Duke of Ed. It is anticipated this will occur either at the end of this term, or early Term 2. If any parent or guardian has any issues regarding the Award, please contact Mr Marshall or Mrs Kellendonk at the College. Looking forward to a very successful December expedition!

**Regards,**
Sean Marshall  
_Duke of Ed Co-ordinator_

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**Public Speaking**

We had eight entrants in the CSDA Public Speaking competition held in Weeks 4 and 5. The students chose topics from a short list, including “From a Distance”, “True Colours” and “It’s Time”. With great anticipation, we had two of the girls progress to the Zone Final, which was held last Friday night at Marist North Shore. The standard of speaking was significantly higher than in the elimination round, and our students could immediately see the natural style which appealed to the adjudicators. They saw the way a speaker’s presence can have a greater impact than strong didactic voices and the content of the speech. While we were a little disappointed for Sarah and Ashleigh, who did not progress, we are very proud of them. We wish them well.

**Students involved:**

**Elimination Round**

- Year 7  Claire Frost
- Year 8  Zoe Coyne and Mary-Ann Heaney
- Year 9  Sarah Harris
- Year 10  Karina Silvanian and Odette Regan

**Zone Final**

- Year 7  Sarah Brannan
- Year 9  Ashleigh Hoggard

**Mrs R Morgan**

*Head of English*
Activities Club

Thank you to all who attended our first meeting this year and in particular to those who have volunteered to take on roles within the Club.

The Activities Club is a parent run volunteer organisation set up to offer students of Mercy College the opportunity to participate in extra – Curricular Activities outside of school hours.

We currently offer Netball, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey (6-a-side), Swimming, Tennis, Yoga, Dance and Drama.

The Minutes from our last meeting can be found on the College website. All parents/carers are invited to our next meeting Thursday 8th May 2014 7pm in the College Library.

Please contact Mrs Kellendonk 9419 2890 if you would like any further information on the Club.

Activities Club Committee 2014

President Mr Kim Jephcott
Vice President Ms Philomena Brandt
Treasurer Ms Nasrin Soleymani
Secretary Mr Michael Corbett
Administration Mrs Margaret Kellendonk

Basketball Ms Liz Bowers
Hockey Ms Kate Nolan
Drama Ms Felicia Kontoulas
Dance Ms Catherine Hansell
Yoga Ms Sharon Dempsey
Tennis Mr Mark Nissan

Convenors

Swimming Mrs Margaret Kellendonk
Football Mr Ian Hopkinson
Netball Mrs Jacquie Parker
Coach Convenor Mrs Sharon Houston

EXTERNAL PROVIDER MANAGED BY ADMINISTRATOR

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Tennis Ms Meredith Coleman
Ms Vicky Bancroft
Mrs Helen Sheehy
Ms Michelle Hadley
Mr David Chapman

UPDATES

2014 Netball registrations have been submitted to NSNA for consideration. Provisional Team lists have been posted. (See College Undercroft) NB: Grades for the teams will be confirmed by NSNA by 15 March.

COACHES and UMPIRES

Please lookout for an email this weekend for a meeting of Student Coaches & UMPIRES at school next week and upcoming umpire training dates with NSNA. Coaches training will commence shortly.
If you need a rule book ($15) or whistle ($8), please send an email to netballmcc@gmail.com by Monday 10 March 2014.

NEW UNIFORM

Uniforms have been ordered and should arrive by end of the month. If you need a new uniform, please see Mrs Kellendonk ASAP. It takes a month from order to delivery ....and the winter competition season commences on SATURDAY 5 April 2014!

(UMPIRES will be needed to umpire on Friday 4th April)

We take this opportunity to wish you a great season.

Jacquie Parker & Sharon Houston
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

Parent News  Forum

Invitation to the forum Alcohol Fuelled Violence in our Community

I would like to invite you to the forum Alcohol Fuelled Violence in our Community to be held on Tuesday 25 March 6.45pm to 9pm at the Hornsby RSL Club.

A number of recent assaults, including that which killed Daniel Christie from Thornleigh, have created a lot of concern in the community about alcohol fuelled violence. These concerns will be discussed at this forum.

Hornsby Shire Council is working in partnership with the Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) to provide this forum for parents, carers and professionals to equip them with strategies to deal with this emerging issue.

Paul Dillon from Drug and Alcohol Research Training Australia will present the keynote speech, followed by a panel question and answer session. This Q&A panel will include NSW Police and Health NSW. David Cifer Manager of KYDS (Ku-Ring-Gai Youth Development Service) will perform MC duties.

We would appreciate your support by informing your parent community, teachers, school counsellors and other professionals at your school, encouraging them to come along to this event. Please see attached a flyer to assist in promotion.

If you require further information, or for RSVP please contact Paul Stuart (Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Northern Sydney Medicare Local) on 9477 8729 or email pstuart@nsml.com.au
Canteen Roster

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

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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Sandra Robinson</td>
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<td>Kim Butt</td>
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<td>Erika Keri</td>
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<td>Laverne Saunders</td>
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<td>Maryanne Doban</td>
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<td>Siobhan Douglas-Robertson</td>
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CANTEEN NEWS 7/3/14

Open Day Sunday 9 March  The School Canteen will be open during Open Day. Mercy students and visitors will be able to purchase hot food, sandwiches & wraps, cakes, drinks, ice cream treats and crisps.

Toasted Sandwiches are available at the canteen for lunch every day, these must be pre-ordered at recess. The cost is $3.00.

Yoghurt – 93% fat free yoghurt which has a berry coulis and mixed berries on top or toasted muesli (nut free), sometimes depending on the season passionfruit pulp or sliced mango is added.

SUSHI – Fresh sushi is available on Tuesdays $2.80 choice of Thai Beef, Tuna, Inari or Chicken Teriyaki
Women in Engineering & Information Technology Hands On Day
27 March 2014

The Women in Engineering & IT Programme, along with the University of Technology Sydney will be running the Autumn Semester Hands on Day for female school students across NSW. This day promotes engineering and IT as relevant career options for young women, through engagement with fun, educational and hands on activities. **Places are limited.** Registration form: [http://uts.ac/HOD2014](http://uts.ac/HOD2014)

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**UNSW**

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Engineering Student — Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 19 March 2014 — 5:30pm — 8:00pm

UNSW Science invites Year 11 and Year 12 students and their parents to attend an information evening with guest speaker Professor Fred Watson AM, astronomer and popular scientist.

**PROGRAMME**
- Introducing the Faculty of Science
- Guest Speaker, Professor Fred Watson AM
- Overview of Science Programs
- Student Life at UNSW

Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to speak with our current students and academic staff over refreshments. Booking is essential. [http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/student-parent](http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/student-parent)

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Engineering High School Information Day
Thursday 22 May, 9:00am — 5:00pm

Try out several types of engineering over one day at UNSW. Visit the labs, talk to current students and ask lots of questions. Attendance is free. [http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/all-events/high-school-information-day-1-1](http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/all-events/high-school-information-day-1-1)
Careers

Exhibitors with

- universities, TAFE colleges and training providers
- employers and employment services
- career counsellors and advisers
- organisations with apprenticeship information and opportunities
- providers of work and study skills programmes
- providers of HSC resources, lecture programmes and information services
- student support services
- providers of tutoring services
- Providers of international exchange and gap year programmes

Exhibitors with

- Information and resources for the HSC
- Information about university, TAFE and training courses
- Career advice
- Study advice
- International exchange and gap year programs

Seminars on topics including:

- VCE subjects including English, Maths, Biology, Business Management, Psychology, Health and Human Development
- Tertiary courses
- Careers
- Gap year options

Seating at the seminars is on a first come, first served basis.

Admission is normally $10 per person or $25 for families (3 or more including one parent) but a few complimentary tickets are available from the Careers Office. Please see Mrs Wilson.
Careers

Australian College of Nursing
NSW Expo 2014 - Saturday 10 May

ACN is excited to be hosting the 16th annual Nursing and Health Expos in 2014. Established in 1999, the ACN Nursing and Health Expos are the only event specifically dedicated to enhancing the profile of nursing as a profession and hence promote recruitment to and retention of the nursing and midwifery workforce. The 2014 expo series will showcase a range of educational institutions, healthcare providers, specialty nursing groups as well as equipment and lifestyle options.

Sydney Town Hall— 483 George Street—Sydney

Raffles College of Design and Commerce
July School Holiday Workshops
Monday 7 July to Thursday 10 July

These workshops are for students in Year 10-12 who are interested in a creative design career. Workshops cover the topics of commerce, digital media, fashion, graphics, interiors & photography. For information please email contact@raffles.edu.au or phone 9922 4278 or visit http://www.raffles.edu.au/workshops

William Blue College of Hospitality Management
Upcoming Events

Information Evening
Tuesday 29 April - 6:00pm to 9:00pm
North Sydney Campus

Day in the Life Events
Tuesday 15 April, 2 July, 8 July, and 23 September
North Sydney Campus

For further enquiries please contact enquiries@williamblue.edu.au or 1300 851 237 or visit http://www.williamblue.edu.au/about-william-blue/upcoming-events
Careers

University of Newcastle
HSC Music Day

Friday 9 May - 9:30am to 2:30pm
Harold Lobb Concert Hall - Newcastle Conservatorium - Newcastle
During this day, students will be able to choose from workshops and presentations by HSC markers about aural skills, composition, performance anxiety and nerves, and musicology.
For further information please contact: (02) 4921 8900 or conservatorium@newcastle.edu.au or visit http://www.newcastle.edu.au/newsroom/future-students/hsc-music-day-coming-soon

University of Western Sydney
The Academy Scholarships

The Academy at University of Western Sydney offers substantial financial support for high-achieving students who are committed to academic excellence and to making a contribution to their community. Scholarships include the VC Leadership Scholarship, valued at $10,000 per year, and the Dean's Scholarship and Academic Excellence Scholarship, valued at $5,000 per year. The University of Western Sydney also offers other scholarships. Please visit http://www.theacademy.edu.au/scholarships for further information.

Youth Off The Streets 2014 Scholarship Programme

Provides financial support for young people who need help to pursue their talents. The scholarship is valued at $6,000 and can be used in any education or training course. Nominations for the Programme close Friday 4 April. Please contact: (02) 9330 3500 or scholarship@youthoffthestreets.com.au or visit http://foundation.youthoffthestreets.com.au/scholarshipprogram

A Career in Radiation Oncology

Students interested in a career in radiation oncology or those exploring their options can use this site to gain better insight into the field of radiation oncology and what the job entails. Students are able to read career stories and learn how to start a career in this field.

Enrolling in Aspect Vern Barnett School

How to apply for enrolment at Aspect Vern Barnett School

Unlike other schools, Aspect does not know which students will leave their schools each year. Most schools know that all Year 9 or Year 12 students will be leaving at the end of the year and they will have room for another set of students. As all students enrolled in an Aspect school are on an Individual Education Plan, they progress through the school at different rates.

Aspect staff work with the family when a student is ready to leave our school, finding the right place and preparing the student for transition to the next educational environment. It might not be until the end of the year when we know that we will have a vacancy the next year.

To make sure your child will be considered for a vacancy at Aspect Vern Barnett School please come to a School Information Session. These sessions will tell you about our school and you will be able to get an Enrolment Application Form.

School Enrolment Information Session Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th February</td>
<td>9:30 - 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd July 2014</td>
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<td>Tuesday 21st October</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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Venue: Aspect Vern Barnett School 41 Cook Street Forestville 2087

Please contact the school on (02) 9454 8361 to confirm your attendance.

These sessions run for approximately 1.5 hours. At the School Information Session you can get the Enrolment Application Form. For families moving to the area from other states, a parent/grandparent/family member who lives in the area and knows the child may attend the meeting on the parents’ behalf.

Enrolment Requirements

- A current diagnosis from a specialist medical practitioner or clinical psychologist, which is not more than 12 months old. The diagnostic report and/or letter must clearly state that the child fulfills the diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder and be outlined in terms of DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – Version 4). The diagnostic report must provide evidence of the developmental disability and a description of the student’s functioning.
- A current standardised cognitive or developmental assessment (eg IQ testing, Griffiths, WISC-IV, WPPSI-III, Stanford Binet V, DAS) which is not more than 2 years old.
- To be eligible for placement, the child must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia.
- There is a $150 non-refundable application fee.

If, after the Information Session you decide to submit an Enrolment Application Form, the completed application will need to be at the School within 10 days of the information session. Completed applications will be considered by the School Eligibility Committee and parents will be notified in writing of the result. An appeal process is available should a student be deemed ineligible for placement. Please note that eligibility for enrolment does not guarantee a school placement.

Aspect Vern Barnett School operates a waiting list. Parents are encouraged to submit applications for school placement as early as possible however, parents are encouraged to investigate all schooling options as we are unable to offer every child on the waiting list a placement at our school.

An application is made for an Aspect school rather than a specific class or site. When vacancies arise in the school, the decision about how to fill them is made based on whether the type of vacancy available would be appropriate for the child, a child’s age, the length of time a child has been on the waiting list, the availability of alternative placements and the family situation.

The school will contact you from time to time to update any changes to your child’s particulars. Should your current address or contact number change, could you please contact the school so we can update our files and maintain our communication with you.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) 41 Cook Street Forestville 2087
ABN 12 000 637 267
T 02 9454 8361
Aspect Vern Barnett School
www.autismspectrum.org.au