Dear Parents and Carers,

The theme of this week’s assembly was about “having a go and doing your best”. As our guest speaker I invited back Sally R from Year 12, 2015. Sally courageously spoke of the struggles she had throughout her school years and even though she didn’t achieve a very high ATAR she set her goal and gained entry into TAFE doing Hospitality.

Sally’s message was a clear one; not to let the ATAR you achieve define who you are. Her satisfaction came in the effort she put in, setting her own benchmark and being able to say she did her best.

I am proud to say that Sally is a true Mercy girl as she spoke with confidence about the challenges she faced and how she overcame them. She gave a clear message “my goal was to say I gave it my best”.

OPEN DAY

Once again the College had a very successful Open Day with around 750 people touring through the school. We were honoured by a visit from the local major of Willoughby City Council, Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney, who spoke to a large parent group about the College’s connection and contribution to the local community.
I would just like to share with you a few of the comments that I received from our visitors, either by mail or email.

"The young ladies that gave us our tour around the school were fantastic, and from what we saw the facilities and opportunities that are offered to the girls are amazing."

"The school can be commended on having well mannered, confident and articulate young ladies. This was a stand out for us. We asked the girls who gave us our tour so many questions, and they could answer each and every one of them. To say we were impressed is an understatement."

"Praise should extended to the wider school community that was there yesterday. All the girls had smiling faces, they were happy to share and show their work with/to us, as were the teachers. The general feel that we got from the school was wonderful - it's a peaceful, happy learning environment."

I would like to thank everyone in our community who gave up their Sunday, staff, students and parents, to so proudly demonstrate to the wider community what an amazing school Mercy College is.

**EASTER WISHES:**

Jesus had his last meal with his disciples on the evening of Holy Thursday, was arrested during the night, tried Friday morning (Good Friday), condemned, crucified, and died before sundown on Friday. He was bodily raised from the dead on the third day — Sunday, the day of Easter.

After the 40 days of spiritual penance (Lent) by which we as Christians have prepared for this feast day, we should understand the joy of Easter, because we believe that through Christ's resurrection, we can be resurrected as well.

I hope that your family can make the time to join in the liturgies around Easter; to attend your local church and recapture the joy and celebration of Easter. And that the focus of our girls is not just on how many eggs or bunnies they get. Spend some time with your daughter and explore why eggs and rabbits symbolise Easter.

Wishing every family the blessings and joy of Easter,

*Best Wishes*

Signature

Principal

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**Message from the Deputy Principal**

This week Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services (www.enhanced-learning.net) ran a study skills evening with Year 7 parents and students. The evening gave advice on how families could put systems in place to help students work towards achieving their personal best in an efficient and effective way. Students examined their home study environment, the way they organise and manage their resources, how to work effectively at home and deal with distractions, how to manage the workload in high school, and the steps to studying in high school: making study notes, learning the notes by testing yourself and doing as much practise as possible. Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with their daughters and discuss the main areas identified where changes need to be made. Parents can also find extra study skills tips on the following website: http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/

Ms E Kayrooz
Deputy Principal
Message from the Director of Student Wellbeing

Today is National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. As I reflect on the importance of this day, it is sad knowing there are people in our community who cannot live in harmony with others without causing pain and heartache.

The National Day of Action always reminds me of a movie I watched in 2013 entitled ‘Bully’. I had been hesitant to see this movie because I really did not want to see the hurt students could inflict on their peers. The movie follows five students and their families for a year. It does show bullying at its worst. With rare access to the Sioux City Community School District, the film also gives an intimate glimpse into classrooms, cafeterias, the Principal’s office and school bus rides. All these places offer insights into the often-cruel world of children and as teachers, administrators and parents struggle to find answers. It also includes the stories of two families who have lost children to suicide and a mother who waits to learn the fate of her 14 year old daughter, incarcerated after bringing a gun on her school bus because she felt that was the only way to stop the torment she experienced.

The film was confronting and sad to watch. The hurt and physical torment suffered every day by the students interviewed, was overwhelming. One scene that sticks in my mind is when the Assistant Deputy Principal wants two boys to shake hands after an altercation and both students hesitate. When one of the boys is pulled aside and questioned about his lack of conviction when he eventually shook the other boy’s hand, the boy said “why should I shake his hand when all he has done every day is hurt me and when he was asked to stop, he started doing something else and the school did not care”.

We are fortunate at Mercy we never experience the torment and physical violence as depicted in the film. However, there are days when a look by a student can cause hurt and anxiety or when students choose to exclude other students, gossip and inappropriately use email or cyber sites such as ask.fm, to hurt fellow Mercy students. All these are examples of actions that we do not want at Mercy.

In trying to stop the hurt girls inflict on one another it is important parents, students and staff work in partnership and talk to the girls about acceptance, compassion, and positive relationships. Also not be afraid in letting the girls know when their actions and words are not appropriate to use in talking to others. It is also important to be aware of the cyber sites your daughter uses and look at what she writes. It is quite horrifying to see the language used on these sites.

Mercy is a special place where hospitality, compassion and the Mercy circle are part of the culture. We value the relationships we have with one another, but we all must remember in continuing the positive relationships it takes all parties to work together in harmony.

Here is a link to a few trailers for the movie http://www.movieinsider.com/m8966/the-bully-project/

Here are some links to clips that we will be showing the girls in the next few days about how to be a responsible friend when taking pictures and deciding whether to put them online.

**Photo Fail**  https://youtu.be/6_FqFn27JJQ
**Everyone knows Sarah**  https://youtu.be/ThxmgXMBpoM

Internet Safety

Below are some questions that are often queried about using the internet. In bold are the questions and following are the answers.

1. **The Internet gives us access to many resources we couldn’t otherwise come in contact with. That’s probably the best thing about the Internet...**it gives us instant access to things that are far away, things that are locked away, things that even don’t really exist yet. It’s a travel agent, a museum guide, and a party with friends from other continents.

2. **Information on the Internet can always be trusted to be factual. It wouldn’t be online if it wasn’t true.** The Internet is an open forum for anyone and everyone. Bias is the rule rather than the exception. Evaluate carefully ALL information on websites, personal or public.
Student News

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

With the introduction of the Opal Card this year, Transport for NSW and transport operators have allowed eligible school students to travel without a School Opal card for the first seven weeks of the school year, provided they are in school uniform or can provide evidence they are attending school (i.e. school student ID card or copy of class timetable).

Most students have now received their School Opal Cards. Please note that the grace period for the Opal Card will end on Monday 21 March 2016.

If eligible students have not applied for the Opal Cards, they can download the application form from transportnsw.info/school-students and send it to school as soon as possible to be endorsed.

Please ring 131 500 for any enquiry.

After 21st March students will not be able to travel without an Opal Card.
STORM BAKES UP A FUNDRAISER

During the season of Lent, the four Colour Houses have each organised a fundraiser to raise money for Caritas Australia. The Mercy Community has rallied together in solidarity to raise money for the world's poorest communities to help end poverty, support justice and maintain dignity.

On the 14th of March Year 11 Stormanston girls cooked cupcakes, slices, brownies and cookies to raise money and awareness for Caritas Australia. I would like to thank the rest of the College for their support and enthusiasm as we raised over $500 for this worthy organisation. Lent is a time of almsgiving, fasting and prayer and fundraising is one way we can help to make a difference in someone's life.

Annabelle H
Stormanston House Captain

ENROLMENTS

REMINDER: Sibling Enrolments Year 7, 2017
Places are limited for the Year 7 2017 intake and whilst preference is given to families with daughters already attending the College, **we MUST receive a completed enrolment application form for your daughter by Friday 8 April, 2016.** Due to increased demand for placement any sibling applications received after this date will be waitlisted.

Year 7, 2018
Applications for placement in Year 7, 2018 should be received by the College office no later than Tuesday 26 April 2016. The interview process for entry into the Year 7 2018 cohort will commence in Term 4, 2016.

For more information, or to download an enrolment application form please follow the links under the ‘Enrolment Contacts’ tab on the College website (www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au.).
International Women’s Day Breakfast

On the 9th of March, the Year 11 and 12 leaders were lucky enough to have been invited to attend the Monte Sant’ Angelo’s International Women’s Day Breakfast. The breakfast started early but we were all welcomed with warm drinks and delicious food. The guest speaker for the morning was humanitarian advocate, Dr. Michelle Sanson, Senior Lecturer at University of Western Sydney. During the seminar, Dr Sanson shared with us, stories of her work in regards to displacement and destruction victims in third-world countries, further focusing on the difference made by gender. Further, we were also able to hear about the action being taken by the UN in training women to exercise basic human rights through food security and behavioural changes, with the goal of ending toxic life cycles. Through this experience, we gained knowledge on the importance of individual rights awareness and understanding a situation over dictating an outcome. Overall, the seminar was a very eye-opening experience and left us all with an elevated sense of compassion and social justice. We would like to thank Ms Stojanovski and Ms D’Arcy for allowing us the opportunity to attend this event at Monte, and also Dr Michelle Sanson for sharing her experiences.

Rhea T
Creative Arts/Media Portfolio Prefect
**Mercy 5 – Senior Mercy Action Day**

On Wednesday February 24th, a group of Year 10 and 11 girls attended the Senior Mercy in Action Day. Mercy College, along with the other 4 Mercy schools in Sydney came together to discuss advocacy and change.

Throughout the day we had two key-note speakers who spoke about the actions they were taking to solve the issues facing society today. The first speaker, Felicity Reynolds, CEO of Mercy Foundation spoke about her plight to end homelessness and the initiatives she had taken to actually solve homelessness instead of just providing services to the homeless. The second speaker was Zoe from an organisation called Chill Out who are working towards ending child immigration detention. She spoke about all the different initiatives she has been a part of and how these actions were actually making a difference. Both the speakers were very motivational and showed us how we can actually have an impact and initiate change. After this we were split into groups and each received a topic to do with advocacy and change and came up with a presentation to give to the rest of the group.

Overall it was a rewarding experience that motivated us all to be the change we need to see in the world today instead of tomorrow.

**Isabelle B**

**Mercy Action Portfolio Perfect**
Year 10 News – Finding Your Voice Workshop

On March 10th, Year 10 were able to participate in a programme named ‘Find your Voice’ run through the REACH organisation. This workshop was absolutely amazing in helping us understand more about ourselves, our peers and helped Year 10 to be a closer Year group.

This particular workshop helped to 'strip back' the layers of high school, and 'strip down' the layers of labels that we, and others, associate with ourselves. We started by giving labels to some very controversial celebrities such as Kim K., Kanye West and Donald Trump. As you may have guessed, the labels associated with these people were mainly negative. Although none of us have met any of these people, we felt as if we knew what they were like and unknowingly reworded what the media has told us to think about them.

We then were asked to 'label' Josh, our presenter. These labels were all very pleasant and much more positive. This may have been because we did not know anything about him before he came to present or maybe because he was standing in the room with us.

In the last section of this activity, we were able to share labels that had been placed on us, regardless of whether we believed them or not. Throughout this workshop, many people bravely opened up to our grade. They opened up to many people, people whom they may have never talked to before. I, as well as nearly all the grade, admire them for being able to open up as most of us did not know their stories as we never had the opportunity to 'mingle' with each other. This workshop has brought Year 10 closer and the points discussed will always be remembered. Thank you to Ms Stancliffe for organising such a moving day as well as Josh and everyone else at REACH for presenting their workshop.

Cassie
Year 10 Creative Arts and Media Portfolio Rep.

Year 11 Day of Hope

On Thursday, the 10th of March, Year 11 was given the opportunity to engage in the Day of Hope workshop run by speaker and writer, Glen Gerreyn.

The day was split into a series of different sessions tackling the social psychology and the various approaches taken by people in order to find "purpose". During the workshop, Glen told us about his early life and the difficulties he faced in regards to his athletics career and how he picked himself back up, setting goals and tackling obstacles. We were also given the opportunity to share a piece of ourselves with others in the grade through identifying our own qualities and fear, a daunting thought for the majority of us. Overall, the workshop was extremely motivating and one of the things that we will certainly be referring back to in our future. Glen left us with the final message: Fail early, fail often, fail forward - teaching us all that our failures are just as important as our successes, in order to make our dreams a reality.

We would like to thank Glen for reminding us how much we are really worth and Ms D'Arcy for organising this amazing workshop - a great way to ease us into the senior years.

Rhea T—Creative Arts and Media Portfolio Rep
**Student News**

**Road Safety for Students**

Please remember to be safe when travelling to and from school.

When crossing a road, cross safely at the marked pedestrian crossings, by checking for cars and walking **quickly** across the road if there are no lights, and if there are lights only leave the kerb when the **little green man is blinking**.

Also remember, do not be looking at your phone when crossing the road, watch for traffic instead...

We would like to see everyone here safe and sound every day.

Parents dropping their daughter’s to school by car should not be stopping in front of the school in Archer St or in Malvern Ave in the **No Standing Zone**. Please use Kirk St to drop your daughter where she then can walk to the lights and cross the road.

When picking up your daughter in the afternoon by car arrangements should be made to pick up your daughter(s) in Kirk St not Malvern Ave in the **No Standing Zone** as this disrupts traffic and is unsafe.

**Year 12 Ampitheatre Acts**

The Mercy Ampitheatre acts have returned with Year 12 kicking off 2016! With ....... Worthy performances from Lyndsay and Lauren, Bella and Mary, the audience was certainly entertained – but hold the applause, for a surprise was in store with a Year 12 flash mob! With a bit of Shakira here and a bit of Beyonce there a united Year 12 took to the stage. What a way to wrap up our final Ampitheatre Acts, thanks for a good time everybody.

**Momoko M**  
**College Prefect**
Student News

Year 9 Interfaith Programme – Respect, Understanding and Appreciation

On Tuesday, 15th of March, Mrs Thomas’s Year 9 Religion class attended the RUA (Respecting, Understanding and Appreciation Forum) at the Jewish Museum, Sydney.

Only a few schools were lucky enough to be included on the day, and Mercy Catholic College was one, along with three other schools which included St Andrews, Moriah College and Strathfield South High School.

First, we all took part in a “get to know you” session with all the students from the other schools. Each school then presented information regarding their religions history, their traditions, their customs and the various faiths found in their school. Following this we broke off into smaller groups to discuss the issue of racism amongst different religions and races. We discussed ways in which young people can help prevent racism, from which we found that education and understanding about other faiths is will develop tolerance in society.

To conclude our day we listened to a speech from the CEO of the Jewish Board of Deputies and enjoyed a musical performance from St Andrews College. All in all I thought the day was insightful and very enjoyable.

Natasha R
Year 9
Student News

Religious Education – Open Day
The Religious Education Room was a thriving hub of energy on our College Open Day. Activities included:

**Mercy House Project Compassion Easter Raffle**
The Mercy leaders were selling tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle. Each student in the Mercy House donated Easter Eggs to fill 6 baskets for prizes. The tickets can be purchased from the Mercy Year 11 students at recess and lunch. Costs of the tickets are $1 for 1 ticket, $2 for 3 tickets and $5 for 8 tickets. The raffle prizes will be drawn on Wednesday 23 March at lunch.

**Mercy Action Group Information Desk**
The Mercy Action students distributed pamphlets and spoke to families about the Social Justice initiatives offered at the College such as Vinnies Night Patrol and the Vietnam Immersion Tour.

**Youth Festivals**
Year 11 students Lilian S and Erin H gave information about the Adelaide Youth Festival and the Praise and Worship nights that provide students with the opportunities to explore and develop their faith with other students in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

**World Youth Day 2016 – Krakow Poland**
The six World Youth Day pilgrims were selling raffle tickets to raise money for their life-making pilgrimage to Krakow Poland. First prize is a brand new car. Tickets will be drawn at the Palm Sunday celebrations in Gosford this Sunday 20 March 2016.
A Mercy College Production

Don’t miss out on the event of the year - *Stories in the Dark!!*

*Stories in the Dark* by Debra Oswald is a moving tale of two children facing the atrocities of war. With over 50 students from Mercy and Pius involved in all aspects of the production, this is shaping up to be the event of the year! Tickets are selling fast with Friday evening at full capacity. Don’t miss out on seeing our wonderful cast share the tales of Ogre’s, Kings, Princes and the She-Wolf. Book now at www.trybooking.com/182702.
World Youth Day 2016 – Krakow -177 days to go

In July, six Year 11 Mercy students will partake in a ‘life-making journey’ as they begin their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in 2016. The pilgrimage will follow in the footsteps of the Saints through Italy and then continue through Poland to Krakow for the World Youth Day celebrations. Please pray for our pilgrims as they embark on this amazing faith journey.

To help with the price of their pilgrimage the girls will be selling raffles tickets at the College. If you wish to support the pilgrims please send money with your daughter. Tickets are $2 each. Alternately, if you are interested in selling a book of tickets please ask your daughter to see Mrs Thomas.

The raffle will be drawn on 20 March, 2016. The prizes for the raffle include:
1st Prize – Car
2nd Prize – European Holiday
3rd Prize – Apple watch
4th Prize – Mini iPad

Mrs Helen Thomas
Youth Minister
Parent News

Message from the P & F President

Open Day

Thank you to the 70 parents who helped during the MCC Open Day. The aspects managed by the P&F ran very smoothly and I am very grateful to those parents who were so generous with their time and expertise.

Everyone seemed to manage their tasks independently, efficiently and happily. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside and meet fellow MCC Parents.

2016 Annual Cocktail Party

We had 80 people attend this event last Friday evening. As ever, it was a wonderful evening in a fantastic location to welcome new families to the school and chat with fellow parents. It was particularly lovely to see parents who knew each other fairly well, being particularly welcoming to parents either new to the school or those who knew no other parents. Thank you for your kindness.

P & F Parent Co-ordinators

I have now received offers for this role for every Year group – thank you. We will organise a low key social event in each of the coming Terms and be in touch with you via email and the school Newsletter.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope you enjoy time with your family.

Please feel free to contact me any time if you have any questions or to provide ideas or feedback.

With best wishes,

Phillipa Sobb
President P & F
perrysobb@gmail.com
0411 429 629
Parent News

MCC 2016 P&F Cocktail Party

[Images of people enjoying the cocktail party]

[Images of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and people at the event]
“The St John’s Narraweena community have produced a stunning family cook book, with over 100 recipes from families and ex-student and celebrity chef, Hayden Quinn. Professionally photographed and designed, Share can be purchased online at www.sharecookbook.com”
Canteen Roster

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

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please help us to serve your daughters! We need volunteers for canteen—once a week, once a fortnight, once a month or even once a term. Whatever suits you. WE are always happy to see you.

If you can help in anyway please contact us ASAP 9419 2890.

Thank you

Anna, Angela and Nancy
Career News

High School Information Day
18 May 2016 - 8:45am to 3:00pm
UNSW Kensington Campus

There will be the opportunity to sample different fields of engineering in hands on activities. There will also be the chance to speak to academic staff and current students to obtain a further understanding of the engineering courses offered. Registrations close on the 11 May or once filled. Please visit http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/high-school-information-day

Science and Engineering Student Parent Evening
23 March 2016 - 5:30pm to 8:00pm
UNSW Kensington Campus

The evening will provide information on the degrees offered in Science and Engineering. It is directed at prospective students and their parents. Attendees will be able to speak one-on-one to academic staff about the degrees and also life on campus. Please check http://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/2016-unsw-science-engineering-student-parent-evening for more information.

HSC Preparation Courses
The courses run at various times throughout the year. There are preparation courses for biology, chemistry, economics, exam preparation, legal studies, music, visual arts, business, design and technology, English, history, mathematics and physics. Dates for specific courses can be found by following the below link. Please check https://cce.sydney.edu.au/courses/education/hsc for more information.

Medicine Information Session
20 March 2016 - 12:00pm - 160 Oxford Street Darlinghurst

For those interested in studying medicine in 2017. Information will be provided on the admission process, an overview of the course, tours of facilities and an opportunity to speak to current students. Please visit http://www.nd.edu.au/events/2016/medicine-information-session
Career News

Subject Bonus Points at ACU

The bonus points scheme provides bonus points for achievement in subjects relevant to university degrees, with up to five bonus points offered. For further information please visit http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/alternative_entry/accessacu

ACU Student Stories

Check out some of the stories of current ACU students to better understand what university has in store. Please check http://life-less-ordinary.acu.edu.au/undergraduate/meet-our-students/

Spotjobs.com is Australia’s fastest growing online job board, focusing on permanent and flexible employment opportunities. Jobseekers can search and filter jobs by location & working conditions. Please check out the website to learn more: https://www.spotjobs.com/

Bond University Medical Programme

Bond’s Medical Programme is comprised of two sequential degrees - the Bachelor of Medical Studies (BMedSt) and the Doctor of Medicine (MD). All students selected for entry into the Medical Programme will have to complete both the BMedSt and MD to be eligible for

Maths and Chemistry Video Tutorials

To help students move to the head of the class in Maths and Chemistry, Curtin University experts have developed a variety of instructional video tutorials. Please visit http://science.curtin.edu.au/outreach/video-social.cfm if you require more information.
2016 Hornsby Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo
Wednesday 10 August 2016 - 4:00pm to 7:00pm
Hornsby War Memorial Hall - High Street Hornsby

Meet training organisations and employers, learn how to get an apprenticeship or traineeship, pick up job applications, learn interview tips and find a career that suits you!

For more information, please contact campbellke@missionaustralia.com.au (02) 9480 2500