Dear Parents and Carers,

We sadly farewelled a long standing member of the Mercy community this week, Mrs Jill Carroll, who has decided to retire from the teaching profession.

Mrs Carroll started teaching in 1972, beginning at Mercy College in 1982 as a History, Business Studies and General Studies teacher. Her commitment to her subject area and her talent for organisation was soon recognised and she was appointed as the Co-ordinator of History in 1992.

Mrs Carroll has always had a great passion for her subjects and a passion for her students. She has always wanted them to have the same love of learning she has and for the girls to achieve the best they are capable of. Mrs Carroll over the years has spent many thousands of additional hours outside the classroom giving extra lessons at lunchtime, after school and even during the holidays so that her girls went into exams with confidence. Many hundreds of students have benefitted from her dedication.

I would like to publicly thank Mrs Jill Carroll for all that she has done for the Mercy community. She will be missed by her colleagues and by the students.

Mrs Carroll takes up another passion as she has begun working with refugees. We wish her well.

I share with you our prayer for Mrs Carroll from yesterday’s Mass. Loving God: We thank you for Mrs Carroll – for her great service to our Mercy Community as an educator and historian. We ask for your blessings on her new stage of life and pray that her legacy is always remembered. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS:
Yesterday we also farewelled our 6 students and teacher who are heading to World Youth Day (WYD) in two weeks time. They take with them the prayers of the whole community as we hope that this experience will strengthen their faith and commitment to the Church, which they can share with us on their return.

You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram.
Facebook @MercyCatholicCollegeWYD
Instagram @MercyWYD

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:
Classes finish today as tomorrow the College will be closed as all staff will be attending a Spirituality Day. This day will allow us as a whole staff, both teachers and support staff, to explore together Pope Francis’ declaration of a Jubilee Year of Mercy with our theme ‘River of Mercy: Streams of Joy’.

Students return on Monday 18 July.

I hope that the holidays are a time where you can relax as a family and enjoy each other’s company, without the pressures of weekend sport and assignments to finish.

Best wishes

Principal

COLLEGE PROCEDURES FOR LATENESS OR APPOINTMENTS

If your daughter needs to leave the College for an appointment and/or is returning from one please provide her with a note which she takes to her Tutor in the morning who will then issue her an Exit Pass. When it is time for her to leave for her appointment she will then need to go to the Student Services desk to sign out and show her Exit Pass to the office staff. She must hold onto the pass whilst outside of the College as proof that she has permission to leave the school grounds. Although it is best to strive to make dental and medical appointments outside school hours it is understood, especially with specialist doctors, that this may not always be possible.

Important Information

Parent Teacher Interviews
Year 8  Tuesday 19th July 2pm – 6.30pm
Year 9  Tuesday 2nd August 2pm – 6.30pm

The interview process for Year 7, 2018 will commence in Term 3 and run through into Term 4 of this year.

If you have not already submitted your application please do so by Friday 1 July, 2016. Any applications received after this date may need to be waitlisted.

For more information, or to download an enrolment application form please follow the links under the ‘Enrolment Contacts’ tab on the College website wwwmercychatswood.nsw.edu.au. You are most welcome to contact me via the College Office on or via Kirsteen.fisscher@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Mrs Kirsteen Fisscher
College Registrar
Message from the Director of Student Wellbeing

Your daughter is ready for a break, so do not be surprised if she wants to rest and sleep in for the first few days of the holidays, or for the older girls most days. The end of a term is always tiring and there is always a lot of energy used trying to keep up and get through the last few days. If you are at home with your daughter spend time watching a fun or romantic movie or movies, or go out to a café, as the old saying goes 'they grow up so fast'. When your daughter is on holidays please be aware of her internet usage, especially daughters in Years 7 to 9 and if they have friends over, check to see they are not sending any nasty emails to other girls because unfortunately, this does occur when girls get together and want to have a bit of fun.

Try to stop the gossip, if your daughter has friends over and they start to gossip, let them know it would be better not to gossip and to move onto another topic, as parents it is important to stop and discourage any hurtful behaviour. Getting enough sleep and eating well, still applies in holiday time. You daughter may have a few late nights, staying up with friends, however, from experience this always ends with a cold. Allow some late nights but try to suggest getting to bed at a reasonable time at sleepovers.

Encourage reading, holidays is a great time to catch up on reading and listening to music instead of always being glued to a computer, encourage reading especially before sleep, it is a wonderful way to relax. When it comes closer to the end of the holidays try to normalise any panic that may set in about returning to school. Your daughter may be worried about a task she has not completed or a task coming up in the first few weeks of Term 3, assure her all will be alright and she will manage and remind her you are available to help with any task.

Getting back into a regular sleep pattern, as the holiday winds down encourage your daughter to get back into a good night time routine, this will make it easier in the first few days in Term 3, which is always a shock to the system getting back into a routine of scheduled concentration and classes.

Enjoy your precious time with your daughter, safe holidays.

Mrs G McDermott
Director of Student Wellbeing

Mercy Girls Inspire

Last week Momoko M from Year 12 represented the College in the annual Gordon Waterhouse Rotary of Chatswood Music Scholarship. She was one of five finalists who performed two pieces from their current 2016 HSC program in the Zenith Theatre Chatswood. Momoko opened the evening performing her highly technical repertoire with confidence and grace. The audience was particularly impressed with her energetic capturing of the ‘Toccata’ by Khataturian. This year the winning entrant receiving a prize of $2000 to assist them in their music studies was a talented saxophonist from Chatswood High School. All other finalists received $250.

Well done Momoko
Student News

Year Nine Retreat:

On the 14th and 15th of June, Year 9 were fortunate enough to participate in a retreat at the Colaroy Centre. The overnight experience was to focus on building relationships with each other and with God. It also marked the first overnight Year 9 Retreat for Mercy, and we all felt incredibly grateful for the opportunity. We were all keen to represent our school with pride by approaching the experience with enthusiasm and an open mind.

On day one, everyone was buzzing with excitement and anticipation for the coming days. We were first given the chance to challenge ourselves by completing two chosen activities; everything from headland walks, to archery, to a terrifying giant swing that left everyone speechless. Had it not been for the incredible teamwork and support displayed by every student, I’m sure the experience wouldn’t have been nearly as memorable. After dinner, a movie and plenty of snacks, we all settled into our cabins for the night.

After a few hours of sleep for some girls, and a few hours less for others, we were all ready for our second day of retreat. This time, we were given the rare opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God. Throughout the day we discussed our spirituality surrounded by a breathtakingly beautiful environment. Once again, all the students were extremely supportive; everyone was given the chance to share their opinions and perspectives without fear of judgement. The Retreat as a whole was completely successful, and something I’m sure we will all look back on fondly. We cannot express how grateful we are to have been offered this incredible opportunity that has greatly strengthened our bond as a Year group.

Sarah B
Year 9 Liturgy Portfolio Representative
**Maths Incursion**

**Inquisitive Minds**

On the 20th June, Year 8 participated in a workshop put on by the Inquisitive Minds team. We all had heaps of fun, completing math problems and riddles. Chocolate was up for grabs, so that definitely got our minds working. We begun by completing some quick riddles that really got you thinking. After that each puzzle we worked on in pairs, and earned different amounts of points depending on the difficulty.

We had 5 minutes to complete a small question, then extra time was used to work on separate puzzles for more points. In the first session Chelsea W, Angelina and Kayla D won a chocolate bar for receiving the most points. But it was Jana Docdoc and Brooke Atkin who took home the family size block of chocolate.

In the second session, during periods 3 and 4 Ellen S and Alexa P also won a chocolate bar. Elizabeth F and Lauren B won the large block of chocolate.

Overall we think it was a really enjoyable workshop, showing us the fun in maths and pushing to work out difficult problems and a lot of us realised our skills in maths.

**By Lauren B, Elizabeth F and Ainslie B**

![Image of students with chocolate bars]

**Winners are grinners**
The Vinnies School Sleepout gives students and teachers the opportunity to make a difference in their local community.

Homelessness is a problem often overlooked and misunderstood in Australia. Over the past five years, there has been a 30% increase in the number of families with children being assisted by homeless services. Most of the children in homeless services are under 12 years of age. Homelessness has serious impacts on children’s education, health and wellbeing.

Mercy College held a School Winter Sleepout on Friday, June 24. This was a great opportunity to experience the hardships of homeless people while in a controlled environment.

22 students attempted to sleep outside on PE mats. We were all rugged up and in sleeping bags, blankets and warm clothes. However, we moved into the corridor after realizing that the lights in the undercroft do not switch off! After some lovely warm soup and a bread roll students listened to a presentation on homelessness and the work of St Vincent de Paul. This generated some insightful discussions. A few games were then run by the Year 12 students and by 11pm we were all settling in for bed.

Students were asked to collect sponsorship for sleeping out and this raised a substantial amount for the Vinnies Winter Appeal. If you would still like to sponsor a student who slept out please contact me at the College.

Thank you to Mrs Greenyer, Mrs D’Arcy and Ms Stojanovski who helped during the evening. A special thank you to Mrs Kavanagh who stayed to supervise overnight.

Helen Thomas
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Amity College - Student Leaders Iftar Dinner

On Monday 27th June, Heeva D and I attended the Student Leaders Iftar Dinner that was held at Amity College. Before attending the dinner, we both were curious and weren’t sure what to expect. When we arrived at the College, we were kindly greeted by students and we were given name tags and an assigned to a table with students from other schools, including, PAL Buddhist School and Amity College. The night began with a welcoming speech by the school captains of Amity College, followed by that was the Iftar Dinner. Once everyone ate, there was a speech by the Executive Principal of Amity College and then a performance by two students of Amity College. That was then followed by many other speeches and presentations. The presentation that stood out most to Heeva and I was the BHS Pastoral Care Project. This presentation was a video clip of 12 Boys from Amity College raising money and refurbishing an orphanage in Malawi. This presentation proved to us that we should replace being greedy with being grateful. After all the wonderful and inspiring speeches and presentations, dessert, tea and coffee was served. At the end of the night, one student from each school gave a reflection speech and as the night concluded, we were all treated with the best and sweetest Turkish delights.

Yanna D and Heeva D  
Year 11 Students
MERCY COLLEGE WYD BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING MASS

This week Mercy College participated in a World Youth Day Commissioning and Blessing Mass to present the pilgrims to the community. The liturgy was celebrated by Fr Paul who will also share in the journey as Chaplain for our pilgrims and the Chatswood Parish. The Mass highlighted the commitment these young people will make not only in developing and strengthening their faith but in reaching out in solidarity to the many international youth they will meet in their travels during the events of World Youth Day.

During the Mass the students were presented to the College community by Ms Kavanagh and received a scallop shell, an ancient symbol of pilgrimage to take on their journey.

In just 16 days our WYD pilgrims will set off on a journey through Italy and on to Krakow Poland for WYD 2016 in what is likely to be the largest gathering of Catholics ever assembled. We ask you to keep our WYD Pilgrims in your prayers as I am sure they will too keep their school community in their prayers whilst they are away on pilgrimage.

Mercy Pilgrims
Vanessa D
Lilanya D
Elizabeth E
Elizabeth K
Fionnghuala L
Carmel R

Pilgrim Group Leader
Ms Gabie Stojanovski

Chaplain
Fr Paul Finucane

God Bless
Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Religious Education Coordinator

JOIN OUR JOURNEY

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
@MERCY CATHOLIC COLLEGE WYD
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@MERCYWYD
**Student News**

**Debating Article**

Last week, the Year 8 students were full of nerves and excitement as they approached the quarter final against Wollemi College, Werrington. They had prepared well to debate the over-arching theme of the evening: Citizenship. As is usual practice, an hour before the debate the topic is revealed and students use the hour to develop a specific case. Year 8’s topic for the quarter final was “that Australia should do more for human rights”. Mercy College team won the affirmative case by a narrow margin. It was an exciting win, which Ms Kavanagh and Mr Cuttler were privileged to witness.

Year 8 will now compete in the semi final against Santa Sabina, which will be held at Santa Sabina on July 22. We hope to overcome Santa Sabina’s home-team advantage and better express our understanding of the topic: Wellbeing.

As you can imagine, we are extremely proud of the Year 8 debaters. We congratulate Isabella S, Betsy W, Felicia L and Louise F.

This year, Mercy College fielded four teams in the Catholic School Debating Association (CSDA) debating competition. Each Friday evening throughout Term 2, debaters and teachers travelled across the Sydney basin to compete against different schools. As you can imagine, the CSDA debating competition is one of friendly rivalry among students; we may yet debate St Pius X in the final. I truly hope so! However, what is readily evident at debating is that thoughtfulness and justice is inherent in Australia’s young people.

I would like to congratulate all debaters. You debated with such enthusiasm and energy. Debating is a wonderful skill to develop because it has so many benefits to the way you think and the way you communicate with others. It strengthens your confidence and it challenges your perceptions.

The competition was also a rewarding experience for the teachers. Debating would not happen without the dedicated staff from the English/HSIE faculties who volunteered their time to coach the teams, and attend Friday night debates as adjudicators and support squad. I would also like to thank all the students who volunteered their time to help as timekeeper, chairpersons and helpers.

*Mrs Rachel Morgan*
Debating Co-ordinator

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**Resource Centre News**

With the holidays fast approaching, just a timely reminder about our Resource Centre eBook platform, providing students with the opportunity to get their teeth into a good fiction book whilst they relax and escape the cold weather. Students have access to a variety of novels from a wide range of genres in digital format, housed not only in Mercy’s eBook collection but also those from other secondary schools in the Diocese. These books can be read on laptops, desktops, chromebooks, and any mobile device including android and apple technology.

To access these books, go to our eBook platform at mercy.wheelers.co. From there, click Sign In. On the Sign in screen, click Sign In again (no need to register), and enter your school username and password in the Lighthouse login screen.

You can then borrow and download, or read online, books from the collection that will be active in your account for three weeks, before they return themselves. If you haven't finished reading them, feel free to borrow them again.

There is also a link to this resource on our new Mercy Catholic College Resource Centre Google Sites page, available through your Google Apps for Education login.

*Ms Siobhan Betts*
Teacher Librarian
MERCY BASKETBALL UPDATE..

The Grand Final game:
From the time the whistle blew the Mercy team flew out onto the court spreading themselves all over the opposing team. The hunger for a win and determination was written over each and every player's face. Playing this top team they knew was always going to be tough and a challenge for the whole 40 minutes.

At one point the difference was only 5 and Mercy was in with a chance but fatigue set in and although the girls gave it everything they had they lost the grand final by 9 points. 29 -20 was the final score.

A very exciting game to watch and a very proud team they should be. Well done Mercy. Look out next season here we come.

The Season
Out of the 15 games played Mercy had 11 wins, 3 loses and 1 draw. The team finished 2nd out of a total of 8 teams and was only behind the top team due to a forfeit point. Every Monday night every player was there with the exception of only one or two weeks. The team just loved playing basketball together.

Smiles all around. Their passion was clear. A lot of games were fought hard as the competition was very tight but together they got to the grand final.

Also every week nearly all parents were there just as excited as their daughters cheering on the Mercy team.

I likened the team to a car: Out of the 9 players we had.
6 spark plugs to fire up the engine
2 engines that ran the team right up to the basket
And the driver who steered the team in the right direction.
And then there was the front passenger, the navigator who told them exactly what was needed. This was their coach.

All in all, a great season. Well done Mary, Keelin, Chloe, Olivia, Georgia, Sonia, Reece, Ignazia, Ella.

Thanks
Lisa Sutton (Team manager)
In Term 3, *It is Time to Shine* will be offering Mindfulness, Meditation and Relaxation lunchtime classes to girls in Year 7 – 12.

**MINDFULNESS, MEDITATION AND RELAXATION**

Mindfulness, Meditation and Relaxation is designed to enhance the wellbeing of students by exploring the breath, listening skills, mindfulness, movement, positive affirmations, guided meditations, self-belief, developing positive relationships, resilience and gratitude. The classes are practical and skill-based.

When: Thursday 1.30pm – 2pm  
Where: Flexible Learning Space  
Cost: $80 per term (8 weeks)

For further information contact Donna D'Silva e: donna.d'silva@dbb.catholic.edu.au or m: 0422 392 901.
CATHOLIC PARTNERS IN AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE

Without additional government funding, the 73 new Catholic schools needed to meet growing demand in the next five years can’t be built.

DON’T take government funding for granted
SchoolFundingFacts.com

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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—one 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