Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I tell you that our Director of Curriculum, Mrs Jan Wilson’s husband, Mr David Wilson, passed away last week after a long illness. Mrs Wilson has been on leave since the end of Term One, caring for him. We offer this prayer for the Wilson family during this time of sorrow.

**Prayers of the Faithful**
We ask you Lord to give comfort and love to Mr Wilson’s family and friends. May your strength and courage be with them, now and always. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We ask you to watch over the family and friends who loved Mr Wilson and give them the strength to continue to live by his example with the love and kindness he gave to his family. Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

**HIGH ACHIEVERS MORNING TEA**
At the end of last term I read the girl’s academic reports with great pleasure. It is wonderful to see that so many of your daughters are working to the best of their ability, which shows in the teachers’ comments.

As I have always said an important indication of whether your daughter is working to her capacity is the right hand column of the report where teachers’ indicate their application to homework, behaviour and effort. Again it was very pleasing to see the number of girls who received an Excellent in these columns.

To recognise those students who achieved a high over-all grade or those that received Excellent in their application they are being invited to attend a morning tea with the Principal and Year Coordinator. If this is the case for your daughter, she will receive her invitation soon.

**YEAR 11 (2017) INFORMATION NIGHT**
I direct your attention to the message in this Bulletin from Mrs Morgan (Acting Director of Curriculum) regarding the procedures we are using to assist your daughter to make a wise choice for her subjects for Year 11 next year. I particularly encourage you to attend the Information Evening on Monday the 8 August.
MAJOR CHANGE FOR THE HSC
You will have probably heard in the news recently that the BOSTES has been reviewing syllabuses for HSC subjects with the aim “to increase fewer topics and more depth across the HSC, encouraging more analysis and less rote learning” (SMH).

In previous newsletters I have spoken of the approach the teachers at Mercy are now using in the classroom called Cultures of Thinking, where the thinking and understanding processes are more important than learning by rote. Mercy College teachers are well ahead of the recent proposed changes; therefore Mercy students will be well prepared for the new HSC.

Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanagh
Principal

OPEN MORNING Tuesday 16th August 9am-11am

Mercy Catholic College
Visual Arts & Design Exhibition 2016
Displaying Year 7-11 works
Featuring Year 12 HSC Visual Arts
and Design & Technology
6pm-8pm
Official Opening 6:30pm
Wednesday 17th August
Harrington Hall, via Kirk Street
Family and friends welcome
Senior Subject Selection for 2017 – a reminder of some dates

To the Parents/Carers of Year 10

Together with the Subject Selection Booklet, you will have received information from Mrs Morgan regarding important dates and events to support your daughter choosing her senior subjects for 2017. Please find below a summary of these dates and some useful links.

**Term 2**
Year 11 Curriculum Information Booklet 2017 emailed to parents and students

**Term 3**

**Week 1**
Year 11 Curriculum Information Booklet 2017 emailed to students with the Subject Selection return form

**Week 2**
Career Voyage – A career planning program which presents a series of questions focusing on interests and aptitudes and results in a list of suggested careers to match these skills.

**Week 3**
Monday & Tuesday - Teachers of senior subjects will talk to all students

**Week 4**
Monday – 4pm – 6.30pm Year 11 **Subject Selection Evening for Parents and Students** to talk to teachers of senior subjects
Friday – SUBJECT SELECTION FORMS DUE to Mrs Morgan (12 August 2016)

**Week 5/6** – Subject Selection interviews with students and Mrs Morgan (Acting Director of Curriculum) or Ms Stancliffe (Year 10 Co-ordinator)

Throughout Term 2 I have been encouraging your daughter to look at the HSC syllabus documents http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/ in order that she is familiar with the expectations of the course requirements of her chosen subjects and to form any necessary questions she may have for the teachers. Following the Career Voyage completion I have suggested that your daughter once again looks at the Mercy College Careers Website, specifically the Bullseye documents http://mercychatswoodcareers.com/?page=bullseye, to see where the suggested careers for her, match with different senior subjects.

Should you have any further questions regarding the Subject Selection process, please see the recent emails sent home or do not hesitate to contact me tracey.stancliffe@dbb.catholic.edu.au or Mrs Morgan rachel.morgan@dbb.catholic.edu.au

**Kind regards**
Tracey Stancliffe
Year 10 Co-ordinator
Science News

Results of the 2016 Science International Competitions and Assessments for Schools – Science

On Tuesday May 31, 2016, students from Years 7 to 10 participated in the 2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools – Science. The results have been released. There are 5 distinctions, 60 credits and 38 merits.

Congratulations to the following girls:

**Distinctions:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annabel L</td>
<td>Brooke A</td>
<td>Georgia C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte W</td>
<td>Ainslie B</td>
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**Credits:**

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<th>Year 7</th>
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<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laila A</td>
<td>Serena B</td>
<td>Eleanor A</td>
<td>Rosie A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophie A</td>
<td>Lim B</td>
<td>Margaret B</td>
<td>Sonya B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoe A</td>
<td>Lauren B</td>
<td>Isabella C</td>
<td>Cyrene D</td>
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<td>Sophia L</td>
<td>Anika C</td>
<td>Claire F</td>
<td>Dimitra D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenzi L</td>
<td>Trishala C</td>
<td>Mia H</td>
<td>Jade G</td>
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<td>Isabel L</td>
<td>Chloe D</td>
<td>Taylah L</td>
<td>Chloe H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca M</td>
<td>Jana D</td>
<td>Alysha M</td>
<td>Grace J</td>
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<td>Genevieve O</td>
<td>Elizabeth F</td>
<td>Aoife M</td>
<td>Edlyn K</td>
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<td>Sophie S</td>
<td>Cailin G</td>
<td>Hannah N</td>
<td>Elizabeth L</td>
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<td>Jinhyun S</td>
<td>Catherine H</td>
<td>Charlotte V</td>
<td>Caolyn M</td>
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<td>Codie H</td>
<td>Jodie M</td>
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<td>Charlotte T</td>
<td>Abbey J</td>
<td>Ariane P</td>
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<td>Ariann K</td>
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<td>Kimberly M</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Norah V</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Betsy W</td>
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<td>Chelsea W</td>
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Student News

Science News continued

Merits:

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<tr>
<td>Mia B</td>
<td>Claudia B</td>
<td>Kyra A</td>
<td>Danielle C</td>
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<td>Eloise B</td>
<td>Rosemary K</td>
<td>Sarah B</td>
<td>Bianca G</td>
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<td>Charlotte B</td>
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<td>Remie C</td>
<td>Caitlin H</td>
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<td>Adeline C</td>
<td>Claudia O</td>
<td>Vanya D</td>
<td>Giselle K</td>
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<td>Natalie H</td>
<td>Jacinta R</td>
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<td>Crystal N</td>
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<td>Bea I</td>
<td>Milen S</td>
<td>Alessia I</td>
<td>Caitlin S</td>
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<td>Stephanie L</td>
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Rowena Lau
Science Co-ordinator
**Student News**

**Girls in Engineering at UNSW**

In the first week of the July holidays I was privileged to attend a 3 day Women in Engineering program at NSW University along with 60 other Year 10 girls from different schools across Sydney. We were divided into our preferred branches of engineering which included aerospace, biomedical, chemical and civil engineering. I was part of the civil engineering group.

During Day 1 of the program we had a tour of the UNSW Engineering Facilities and learnt about the tools and machines civil engineers use and their operation. Current engineering students also informed us of the safety precautions and risks involved. Next we were grouped into 3 civil engineering teams of five students each, and were given our project brief to plan and construct a model for the new Grafton Bridge.

On the second day we worked on forming our plan for the project and designing our model, then we got to physically construct a scaled model of our bridge using craft materials. The 3 models from each of the groups were then strength-tested and my group's model got the highest score!

Day 3 was spent finalising and practising for our presentation. We then pitched our model and plan to the entire group and listened to all the other projects from all the different engineering branches.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Women in Engineering program and the challenge of using Maths and Science skills. Engineering is definitely an area I am interested in pursuing after high school and I now feel much more educated and aware of exactly what is involved in being an engineer in today's society. Thanks to Mrs Stancliffe for giving me the information about this great workshop.

By Jamilah Yr 10

**Drama News**

The Power Within

Year 10 students from our lunchtime film group MICE Productions have been working on a short film *The Power Within* with a group of amazing students from St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School at Asquith. These primary school students have to face various challenges in their day-to-day school life - behavioural, academic, social and emotional. This film was created not only to inspire audiences, but also to increase the confidence of the young actors by assisting the students to find their superpowers (special abilities!).

The production team worked closely with the students in workshops centred on superheroes and superpowers to develop their individual characters. The team wanted to bring out the best in these students and show them that they have value in our community. This video shows the stories of six young superheroes that possess the powers of humour, joy, love, faith and kindness. If we all look deep enough we will find the power within, we just need motivation and determination.

Special thanks to the film-makers including Elizabeth L, Jodie M, Danielle C, Eloise D, Cassie P, Ashleigh C, Amelia B and Victoria L.

**WE NEED YOUR VOTES!!!**

*Our film has been entered in the Focus on Ability Film Festival. Our film is now up for the People’s Choice Award. To view our film and vote please visit http://www.focusonability.com.au/FOA/films/The_Power_Within_1120.html*
World Youth Day (WYD) Update

It’s coming up to two weeks since Mercy WYD pilgrims departed Australia. After spending a week or so in Italy visiting Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Venice, they have now arrived in Poland and are immersing themselves in Polish hospitality. After a late arrival in Warsaw they continued their pilgrimage to Czestochowa to explore the Jasna Gora Shrine and see the famous Black Madonna, an image and devotion Saint John Paul II felt close to his heart. The World Youth Day celebrations began on Tuesday with the Opening Mass presided by the local Bishop. There will be an Australian gathering of WYD pilgrims on Friday July 29, log on to xt3.com to view a live streaming of the event.
Student News

Make A Difference” - Year 10 at NSW Parliament House

On Tuesday, Cassie and I went to the New South Wales Parliament House to participate in their annual "Make a Difference Day", to which Year 10 students from all over Sydney were invited to take part in the opportunity to explore how Australian democracy works, and how we can engage as active and informed citizens in our schools and communities.

At the beginning of the day we watched a keynote address with MPs and MLCs with Ms. Mehreen Faruqi, Ms. Trish Doyle and Mr. Trevor Khan. They talked to us about their lives and most memorable experiences of working for the government. Afterwards, students were able to ask questions about current events and other topics, to see where their stance on it was.

Next, we were broken up into several small groups in which we were asked to discuss three questions: 1. What is Democracy? 2. What current issues are affecting Australia today, and what can we do to improve the situation? 3. Should the legal voting age be lowered to the age of 16 instead of 18?

After discussing and debating the ideas, the groups came together to meet in the assembly, where politicians sat and deliberated major issues facing Australian society. We had one representative of our “party” address the audience and tell them about our stance on the questions provided. All groups but one unanimously agreed to lower the voting age, but from the ages of 16-18 it should be non-mandatory.

All in all, we would definitely recommend future students to join in, since we learnt a lot about how the Australian Federal Government works, the ins and outs of how decisions about our country are made, and because we want to be involved in making a difference in our modern society!

Isabella and Cassie, Year 10
Debating Article

Last Friday, our Year 8 debating team, Isabella S, Betsy W and Louise F participated in the CSDA Semi-Final against St. Scholastica’s College. As a team, Year 8 have a history of debating success, having made the final rounds last year. Obviously, the Semi-Final is a very tight and hard fought contest. The students argued the topic, “That it is the little things that count”. Mercy debaters were unlucky to be arguing the negative side of this topic. They developed a strong argument that job security and financial stability were more important than a smile or emotional connection. However, as you can imagine, it was a very difficult side to argue. Unfortunately, at the end of the debate, the adjudicators, in a split decision, gave it to the affirmative side.

Nevertheless, we are very proud of the team who have debated exceptionally well on difficult topics throughout the season. They have shown dedication, attending meetings and discussion sessions since Week 8 of Term 1. The group always showed great team work and industry. The students should be commended for their determination and skill in arguing effectively. They are developing a strong ability to talk with confidence and to undermine the arguments of the opposition systematically.

I would like to thank the teachers who attended the Semi-Final last week (Ms Kavanagh, Mrs McDermott, Mrs Mooney, Miss Phillips, Mr Strong) for their support of the debaters. I know that it was appreciated. I thank the parents for their support of Debating at Mercy, and for driving around Sydney on a Friday evening. Also, I must thank the adjudicators, timekeepers, chairpeople and greeters for their contribution to making debates here at Mercy run so smoothly throughout the debating season.

**Editor’s note:** And a huge thank you you must go to the teachers—Mr Mark Strong, Miss Melissa Phillips, Mrs Christine Mooney, Mrs Tamara Munro, and Ms Jess McKay, with special mention of Mrs Rachel Morgan our Debating Co-ordinator. Without the generosity of these staff members who have coached & adjudicated, giving up their Friday evenings throughout the Debating season, our students would not have had this opportunity. Ms Kavanagh.

**Mrs Rachel Morgan**
Debating Co-ordinator
Parent News

**Pokemon - Go or Stop?**

I’m certain all parents have heard of the Pokemon Go! App craze over the past month. Pokemon Go! has been described as “the gamechanger of gaming”. This free smartphone app requires an internet connection with GPS tracking and is referred to as “Augmented Reality” - whereby the game is played in a reality that combines real life activity “augmented” with interactive gameplay. Essentially, gamers move around the suburbs hatching eggs, capturing Pokemon, visiting Pokéstops and Gyms and being totally immersed in this highly addictive game. A player’s location is tracked, stored, and revealed to nearby players, including both children and adults. But under the hood, what is going on here?

The following information comes from Task Force ARGOS of the Queensland Police Service: Pokemon Go! is a geo-locating app where users must use their telephone to send images. That is, they are sending metadata to the host site along with their IP address. The user must accept broad, open terms and conditions which include surrendering all rights to all information contained in the linked personal account used to create their profile.

So, while there are obvious benefits to having a game that gets children outdoors and exercising it is not without its concerns and potential threats to personal safety and security. To learn more, view this unbiased review of the game: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews/Pok%C3%A9mon-go

**Musical.ly**

For families with pre-teen and teenage girls, the Musical.ly app can be nothing short of alarming. This app allows users to create a profile and record videos of themselves lip syncing and performing to popular music tracks for distribution, comment and collaboration online. Pedophiles are using this new application (based out of China) to create fake profiles to encourage users to be more daring and explicit with each bedroom video production. There is also the option to connect via email and chat, leading to potential faceto-face meetings over time. Hence the cause for concern. Again, Common Sense Media provides a balanced review at: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews/musically-your-music-video-community.

It is important for parents to “plan” discussions surrounding online behaviour and social media apps. If handled poorly, a parent can force a child’s use of social apps underground. It is better to be open and non-confrontational. Parents are the moral compass but the children know the technology. We need to meet our children in the middle in a non-threatening manner so we are “invited” into their socially connected lives. Only then can we seek to guide them with our learned perceptions of what is good, bad, real, fake, threatening and non-threatening about the real world we live in.

Pastoral Care Team
Positive Parenting Program

Free seminar, refreshments provided
This program is a lecture style presentation and does not allow for children to attend that are over
6 months and mobile. Childcare is not provided.

This program consists of 3 seminars held over 3 weeks designed to introduce the principles of Positive Parenting. Parents learn how to encourage their children to learn skills which promote children's health, development and wellbeing. This program is aimed at parents of children aged 0-10 yrs.

SEMINAR 1
THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARENTING: Wednesday 10th August 10:30am-12:00pm

SEMINAR 2
RAISING COMPETENT, CONFIDENT CHILDREN: Wednesday 17th August 10:30am-12:00pm

SEMINAR 3
RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN: Wednesday 24th August 10:30am-12:00pm

Triple P Seminars address general parenting issues; why children tend to behave in certain ways under certain influences, and what they best respond to; dealing decisively and effectively with behaviours such as aggression, non-co-operation and disobedience; recognising and managing situations that might be much less obvious such as sadness, anxiety, difficulty with separation and problems mixing with other children.

Location:
Lane Cove Library
139A Longueville Road
Lane Cove 2066

Bookings are essential! To make a booking call CatholicCare on 8425 8700
Or email: naremburnfamilyservice@dbb.org.au

*Please note children are unable to attend and childcare is not provided*
Canteen Roster

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>1/8 – 5/8</th>
<th>8/8 – 12/8</th>
<th>15/8 – 19/8</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Required</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>E. Keri</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>S. Coco</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>L. Pinelli</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>J. Hester</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>L. McCarthy</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>S. Miller</td>
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<td>I. Lavermicocca</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>K. Chow</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>G. Burrows</td>
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please help us to serve your daughters!

Volunteering at the canteen gives you the opportunity to meet other parents, your daughter’s classmates also to put a face to a name of a teacher.

No previous experience required and tasks are very simple.

We welcome fathers, mothers, carers and gran.

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

Thank you

Anna, Angela and Nancy