Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful week of celebrations with our Opening School Mass on Monday, our high achievers award ceremony at the Catholic Schools Office on Tuesday, our College Academic Assembly on Wednesday, the welcome to the Diocese Mass for new staff on Thursday and our Swimming Carnival on Friday.

OPENING MASS:
The theme for our Opening Mass was “let your light shine” with students being encouraged to identify where their gifts and talents lie and to use these to make Mercy College and the community better places.

We are encouraging the girls to set goals that are SMART goals.

S – specific; M – measurable; A – achievable; R – rewarding; T - time-based.

In Tutor Group the girls have had conversations with their Tutor about goal setting and have been asked to set a goal for themselves for the Term. It would be great if you ask your daughter what her goal is and what she is going to do to achieve it.

ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY:
For our Academic Assembly we invited back all students from last year’s Year 12 who received an ATAR of 90 or above to recognise their achievements. Karina Silvanian who achieved the highest ATAR of all Mercy students, 99.9, was asked to address the other students.

She gave wonderful sound advice to not only our senior students, but also relevant points for the juniors, on what made her so successful. She spoke about how students need to find ways that they study best, “as not one size fits all”. Karina also mentioned that “you are not defined by a mark”, but you do need to “give it your best shot”. I was pleased that she also spoke of the importance of the friendships she developed at Mercy and how involvement in school life (sport, music etc) provides “memories you will cherish”.

The Mercy community was proud to recognise these high achievers and we wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Karina and Esther receiving their high achiever’s award
INDUCTION OF NEW STAFF:
New staff members were inducted into our community at our Opening Mass on Monday and into the Diocese at the Diocesan Mass Thursday night.

Michelle Brandwood (English) is highly qualified and has significant experience in teaching English and Religious Education at St Ursula’s, Mount Saint Joseph’s and Mary MacKillop Colleges. She will also be working with the debating teams this year.

Mrs Salina Bussien the College’s new Co-ordinator of LOTE (Languages Other Than English) is a native French speaker was born in Switzerland and studied in the USA. Her past school experiences have included Pymble Ladies College, Monte Sant’Angelo and Santa Sabina Colleges.

Mrs Fiona Cunningham (Food Technology and TAS) comes to us with vast experience in her teaching domain. She has worked in a number of schools including Gilroy College, Cerdon College and Loreto Normanhurst, as well as being a HSC marker for a number of years.

Genevieve Hanlon our new Mathematics Co-ordinator is highly qualified with a number of post-graduate qualifications and she has vast experience in her field. She has taught at a wide variety of schools including independent and State high schools. Mrs Hanlon has a wealth of knowledge regarding the appropriate use of technology in the classroom and a great passion for girls enjoying and understanding Maths.

Mrs Suzanne Holman (Textiles and Design and TAS) brings her expertise and passion for teaching to Mercy after having taught in a number of schools including Killarney Heights High, St Scholastica’s and Rosebank Colleges.

Cettina Lahiri worked with us for a short period last year on a temporary contract replacing someone on leave. She is highly qualified and accredited in her field and this year is a full time member of our Religious Education faculty.

Viviana Oliver with her wide range of experiences in numerous schools, will be working in the Learning Support faculty offering support in literacy, numeracy and organisational skills to individuals and groups of students.

Clare Thorpe our new HSIE Co-ordinator (History) spent several years working overseas in London before returning to Australia to work at Marian and Mater Maria Colleges. She has a great love of history and a desire to use technology to support her classroom practice.

Nadia Zambetti has worked with us at Mercy before and I’m pleased she returns this year as a Design and Technology and TAS teacher.

I extend a warm welcome to all our new staff members and hope their time with us is fulfilling.

Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanaugh

Principal

OPEN DAY
Sunday 5 March, 11am-2pm

Outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate. Ranked in the top 10% of the State.
Message from the Assistant Principal

PARENT AND STUDENT
STUDY SKILLS
EVENING

Mercy College Chatswood presents an opportunity not to be missed:

“TOOLS FOR SUCCESS”
with Dr Prue Salter

To: PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF YEAR 7

Would you like to know the study skills secrets to success in high school?

Mercy Catholic College Chatswood

Year 7 Parent/Student “Study Skills” Evening
Monday 20th March 2017, 7pm—8.40pm
Harrington Hall, Kirk St, Chatswood

(Note: please arrive 5-10 min prior to collect handouts)

An interactive evening for parents and students outlining tools and techniques for students to achieve their personal academic best.

Dr Prue Salter is the founder of ELES (www.enhanced-learning.net) and an expert in the area of study skills. She has conducted over 4000 study skills seminars across Australia and Asia, has written 20 study skills resource kits for schools and is the creator of the online and interactive study skills website used by more than 120000 students (www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

Prue’s PhD explores whole-school integrated approaches to developing students’ self-regulated learning skills.

Parents/carers and students should attend together. As the session is very interactive, the session will not be of full value unless both the students and a parent attend.

Both students and parents also need to bring along a pen each (and one highlighter for the family) and the school diary.

The main areas that will be covered are:

- Managing homework and assignments effectively by efficient time management.
- Learning to be more organised for school and at home.
- Working and studying effectively in high school.

Enhanced Learning Educational Services
"the study skills specialist"
www.enhanced-learning.net
Message from the Religious Education Co-ordinator

Ash Wednesday and Lent

March 1st is Ash Wednesday, one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar in the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. The College will be attending a special Mass at Our Lady of Dolours at 10am.

During the Ash Wednesday Mass, the priest or other ministers apply the ashes to a person's forehead and speak the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Or "Repent and believe in the Gospel." The ashes symbolise the dust from which God made us. Everyone is invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance, regardless of whether or not you are Christian. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

Catholics aged 14 and older should abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays during Lent, especially Good Friday, which is the last one before Easter. The College Canteen will not be serving meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent to follow the common practice of penance.

Helen Thomas
Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

As Lent begins so does Caritas Australia’s annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. This is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic community to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Students will be taking home small Project Compassion donation boxes. This will help them remember to make small sacrifices during the week and place their donation in the box. Every Friday they are asked to bring the funds raised in their box to school. This will be collected by Year 10 in their Tutor Group. Project compassion demonstrates how love for our neighbour transforms lives.
Message from the Religious Education Co-ordinator

PANCAKE TUESDAY

When - February the 28th
Where - The Undercroft

Come support the Mercy Action Group and Mercy Colour House by buying our $1 Pancakes!
WELCOMING COLLEGE MASS – 20 February, 2017

The Mercy College Welcoming Mass introduced the theme “You are the Light of the World” for 2017. We are called by Jesus not to keep our light hidden but to shine it for all to see.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Paul Finucane who challenged the students to use the light that shines within them for the “good works” of others by showing mercy, compassion and charity. Pope Francis reminds us not to be self-serving. We are called to use the light we have been graced with, to share our talents and let our spiritual gifts illuminate the path for others. The Sisters of Mercy foundress Catherine McAuley also challenges us to “be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.”

During the Mass we welcomed and had a special blessing for all new staff and students to our College community. We also commissioned the new leaders to the College who will use their gifts and talents to serve others throughout the year.

As we embark on the journey of a new year may we commit ourselves to being the face of Christ to those we encounter and to use the power of the light that dwells within us to see our school ablaze in 2017.

Ms Gabie Stojanovski

College Leaders
It was wonderful to receive this letter from a member of the public.

Dear Sir or Madam

I catch the 136 Manly to Chatswood Station bus to work almost every morning and I must say it is always a pleasure to share my trip with these delightful young women from your school. Without fail, these young ladies will stand aside to let us adult passengers board the bus, they are polite, confident, poised, respectful yet full of fun and laughter, so well groomed and tidy and who must be such a true testament to the values taught by your school.

I would certainly be encouraged to send my daughters to your school, just from observation.

Well done.

Kind regards
M.M.

And yet another letter regarding our wonderful girls.

Dear Ms Kavanagh,

I’m writing to pass on my thanks to one of your students who very kindly helped two new Gordon East students yesterday afternoon at Gordon Station.

Ava V helped our students when they had not been collected by their mother. Ava called the school office, stayed with the students for almost an hour and met their mother when she was able to find the right place to pick them up. Ava’s attitude of calm responsibility ensured that our students felt secure enabling them to wait patiently for their mother.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Simmonds
Principal

Gordon East Public School
Rosedale Road
GORDON NSW 2071

Ph: 9498 2011
Student News

Years 11 and 12 Visual Arts Excursion: Art Gallery NSW

On Friday the 3rd February, the Year 11 and 12 Art classes had an excursion to the Art Gallery of New South Wales to view Artexpress and Nude: art from the Tate collection.

The Artexpress exhibition provided a great insight for both Years to learn about HSC Bodies of Work and the different mediums that can be used which did help inspire us. It also provided a great insight into the level of skill the young artists needed and their dedication to art to produce the artworks. Nude: art from the Tate collection provided a rare experience for the group to see these artworks and sculptures that usually stay in Europe.

There were multiple rooms that exhibited artworks of the same era or theme eg historical or political rooms. The historical room was inspiring to look at due to the meticulous detail and realism shown in the paintings. The paintings that were most loved in this room were “Love Locked Out”, “Lament to Icarus” and “The Knight Errand John Everett”, because of the sorrowful backstories, the small changes in portrayals of gender and the stunning details of delicate brushstrokes that captivate the audience.

It was also a great chance to see a world-famous sculpture “The Kiss” by Rodin, as it looked like it could come alive in any moment due to the small details of anatomy that the artist paid attention to. Overall, it was a honour and an extraordinary experience for Years 11 and 12 to witness the two exhibitions as we have been inspired and learnt more about art.

Edlyn K and Sophia V Yr 11 Visual Arts

Homework Club and Study Club

Homework Club is on every Thursday afternoon from 3.20pm-4.30pm in the Library. Study Club runs from 8am-8.40am every Wednesday morning in AT7. These events provide the opportunity for students to work in an atmosphere of quiet endeavour. For those who require some extra guidance with homework, how to approach assessment tasks or improving organisational and time management skills there is a teacher on hand to assist.

Both Clubs are open to students from Years 7-12.
On Monday the 13th and Tuesday the 14th of February, Year 7 embarked on an overnight activity camp at Vision Valley, Arcadia. They participated in a range of fun and adventurous activities that encouraged them to challenge themselves and grow both as individuals and as a group. Activities included raft-building, the Power Fan, the Leap of Faith, archery, the Flying Fox and the ever-popular waterslide. It was wonderful to observe as the students worked as teams to develop skills such as collaboration and communication, enjoying themselves and forming new friendships. The staff and I are very proud of the way our Mercy Year 7s conducted themselves and engaged with each other and the activities run by the instructors at Urban Expeditions.

Thanks to Ms Kayrooz, Mrs McDermott, Ms Brandwood, Mrs Munro, Ms Betts, and Ms Thorpe for attending the camp and helping to make it the special event that it was.

Year 7 camp was incredible. A favourite activity of mine was the vertical challenge. This helped confront my fear of heights and I exceeded higher than I thought was possible. The place was kept very clean and food was always there. Camp was great and I would recommend going there again to future Year 7 students. – Taylor C.

A giant red and yellow water slide, dual flying fox, archery, raft building and so many more daring activities. Starting with some ice breaker games, we got to know each other a bit better than straight after that we went off in our groups to our first activities. As the day went on we were told what cabins we were in and then we watched a movie. The final day had come and by now we had gone outside of our comfort zones several times. Ready to go home we all said goodbye to Vision Valley and headed back to school. – Zoe V.

The Year 7 Camp was heaps of fun. We did activities like the power fan, archery, flying fox, water slide, raft building, wilderness challenge and high ropes. All of the thrilling activities were at Vision Valley. We set limits and goals for ourselves and we beat them. We made heaps of new friends and it was a very good team bonding camp. – Abigail R.

Mrs Melissa Loy
Year 7 Co-ordinator
Student News

Young Creators programme
Ned, Koala and Me

Last year we were invited by Willoughby Council to participate in an art exhibition programme that would provide us with an experience to work with artists and exhibit their artworks in an arspace. Along with three St Pius X students, we met artists Rosie Deacon and Liam Benson and learnt about their art practices and processes. Over the summer holidays we worked together to curate an exhibition for the collaboration of the two artists’ works. We then learnt how to hang, handle and set up the artworks, all in the space of 2 days. This exhibition, titled “Ned Koala and Me”, explored Australian identity and what it means to be Australian. The exhibition was on show for a month in the Concourse art space as well as weekend workshops that were open to the public. Overall, it was a memorable experience, providing us insight in behind-the-scenes of the art world.

Rosie A and Natasha S
Yr 11

On Thursday 9th February, Year 12 Food Technology class attended a behind the scenes tour at the Sydney Fish Markets (SFM). It is the largest market of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and the third largest seafood market in the world. The students were fascinated at the height of activity so early in the morning, with around 150 buyers from some of the top restaurants in Sydney. The auction is conducted on over 100 different seafood species, and over 2000 crates of seafood are purchased each day.

Students observed current industry practice and learnt about current research and development at the SFM on sustainability of various species. The Seafood School at the markets also educates the community on the health benefits of increasing seafood in our diets.

Mrs Fiona Cunningham
Food Technology teacher
Student news

Friday the 10th of February, Year 9 Food Technology classes went to the Royal Botanical Gardens as part of our unit: Food in Australia.

We caught the train to Circular Quay and then walked to the Botanical Gardens. We had our recess on the grass, admiring the expansive selection of plants.

After recess, we met our two educators. They taught us about Aboriginal culture, including the many uses they had for plants. These included food, weapons and curing illness. We learnt about the Aboriginal diet, the different nutritional levels of the foods that they ate and how they hunted and gathered their food. We learnt about different berries and other native foods. These foods have more nutritional value compared to most of our foods eaten in our modern diet.

We also had the opportunity to prepare and cook some Aboriginal bush food. We cooked kangaroo, wattle seed damper, lemon myrtle toffee, and bush tomato popcorn. We all had an opportunity to try these foods. Our educators also took us on a tour around the gardens. They gave us information on the plants and we were invited to touch and taste some plants.

Despite the heat, we had a great time and we learnt a lot about the health benefits of Aboriginal Bush food and how to incorporate these foods into our cooking.

Lara P
Year 9 Food Technology student
Extra Curricular Activities

MCC NETBALL

Grading Completed (Phew!)

It has been an impressive effort by Mercy students and staff to get everyone graded within a very tight timeframe. Thanks for your attendance, punctuality and turning up in proper sport uniform. Special thanks to Mrs Kellendonk, Ms Hogan and Ms Snell for their early starts and grading services. Thanks to the MCC umpires who assisted, particularly Cassie.

Teams will be posted on the MCC noticeboard early next week and will be lodged with the NSNA by Friday, 3 March. Registration refunds are not due after this date except for extenuating circumstances as outlined in the registration form.

Team Manager and Coach Nominations

Once teams are contacted next week, adult team managers and coaches need to be provided so that the training timetable can be finalised and the pre-season training can begin! Volunteer information from the registration database will be communicated to teams. Failing parent interest in coaching, teams will need to source an adult coach so please start thinking about possibilities within your netball networks (older siblings, ex-students, friends, extended family).

Did you know?
For every MCC team that takes court, we have to supply a suitably qualified umpire.

There has been an encouraging level of interest in umpiring for MCC Netball this season – thank you. Please return any remaining Umpire Interest forms to Umpire Convenor, Alison Bird ASAP.

We do remain short of Senior Umpires and Mentors however, so Alison would appreciate referrals or to hear from any retired umpires who might be interested in occasional games and/or transitioning to mentoring instead. Please contact Alison (umpire.netballmcc@gmail.com / 0400 110 995).

Netball Uniforms

The netball uniform order is due in 3-4 weeks. We will distribute them when received.

Options for Second Hand Uniforms:
Return donated second hand uniforms to Mrs Kellendonk.

Pre-Season Fitness Countdown

Will you be game ready for Round 1 on 1 April? Remember, competitive netball depends on fitness and stamina across four quarters, not just two-three! Please start working on your fitness and skills (particularly shooters). We recommend Mr Cuttler’s fitness sessions on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Get moving!
Parent News

P&F Meeting

Thank you to the parents who attended the recent meeting. It was lovely to meet new enthusiastic Year 7 parents.

Contact Lists
If you would like to share your contact details with families in your daughter/s year group, I would be grateful if you could forward the details below to me.

Details for Year Group List
Student’s First Name
Student’s Surname
Student Year in 2017
Father’s Name
Father’s Phone
Father’s Email
Mother’s Name
Mother’s Phone
Mother’s Email

2017 Annual Cocktail Party

The main social event organised by the P&F for MCC parents is the Annual Cocktail Party. This will be held on Friday 10 March 2017. Please consider coming along to this wonderful evening in a fantastic location. This event is not a fundraiser and provides an easy opportunity for you to meet other MCC parents and hopefully catch up with old friends. I particularly encourage parents who currently know no other parents in their daughter’s Year to attend. I can assure you from experience that this is a very easy way to meet some delightful parents.

Date     Friday 10th March 2017
Time     7.00pm – 11.00pm
Venue    Harbourview Lounge, Kirribilli Club, Lavender Bay
Tickets $50 per person – includes canapés and initial bar tab
Dress    Smart Casual
RSVP     Monday 6 March 2017
Tickets  https://www.trybooking.com/259082
Parent News

Open Day

The MCC Open Day provides an opportunity for you to spend a little bit of time at your daughter’s school and contribute to the life of the College. The P&F is seeking volunteers to help on Sunday 5 March 2017 in order to provide a friendly and welcoming environment for our visitors. The tasks are easy and fun and include: Set up, BBQ Cooking, Food and Drink Preparation, Transport Information Table, Welcoming Area, Helium Balloon Inflating and then Pack Up.

If you can spare an hour or two on this day, I would be grateful if you could add your name to the volunteer roster. This year, the roster will be emailed to parents in the form of a link to a Google Document, with instructions and guidelines.
I look forward to meeting many of you at the Open Day and then at the Cocktail party.

Please feel free to call me at any time if you have any questions or would like to provide ideas or feedback.

With best wishes,

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

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Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

**TIME & DATE:**
6.30pm - 8.30pm, Wednesday
15 March 2017

**VENUE:**
Regis Hall,
Regis Campus
Junior Site,
St Ignatius' College,
Riverview Street,
Riverview

**BOOK NOW:**
Council's Road Safety Officer
on 9911 3576

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Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

NSW Government

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Welcome to another exciting year at Mercy! A special welcome to our new parents/carers. This letter is just a friendly reminder/invitation to make the most of our Mercy Chatswood Careers Website (http://www.mercychatswoodcareers.com/). To help you navigate it, here are a few points to help.

When you click on the above link, firstly you will find a number of Menu Tabs on the top which are kept consistently updated with a wealth of information, links and resources.

Secondly, you will find a Careers related video which changes periodically. This term’s video is "Blossoming to Science" by “Amy” (Mayim Bialik), neuroscientist from the TV show Big Bang. Next term we will be displaying “STEM” videos.

Thirdly, we have Widgets down the bottom which I change periodically. Currently we are displaying a Compare Course and Institution Widget, an interactive Careers Bullseye and a Careers, Course and Scholarship Search.

Under the “Important Information” Tab you will find links to:

"Calendar of Events" where you will find a Careers Calendar. It will include Career, Uni and TAFE Events as well as some Enrichment, Co-curricular and Gifted and Talented Events. If you want to receive alerts or reminders of upcoming events, just put your name and email address in here.

"Careers Newsletter" where you can download our Mercy Careers Newsletter. You can also subscribe to a monthly general Careers Newsletter which is in addition to our regular weekly Mercy Careers Newsletter.

"Honours and Blue and Gold Awards" where you can view a presentation explaining the Awards, download Nomination Forms and the Booklet, view examples of Social Justice and Co-curricular Activities and view an example of a “Principal’s Task”.

"Gifted and Talented and Enrichment Activities" which provides a comprehensive list of Gifted and Talented and Enrichment Activities for students. These Activities are available to ALL OUR STUDENTS in Years 7 to 12. You do not need to be classified as being Gifted and Talented in order to participate. If your daughter is interested in any of these, they can apply directly using the links, or see Mr Regoli for more details/advice/assistance (especially if groups of girls are required in order to participate).

Finally, under the “For Students” tab there is a link to “Students Secure Area”, where after your daughter has signed in they can:
Do an interests Test
Do a Skills and Abilities Evaluation
Do a Work Values Evaluation
Design a Comprehensive Career Plan
Use a Career Investigator Tool
Create Resume’s
Create Cover Letters
Develop a Digital Portfolio
Create a mock online job application
Apply for and record your USI

Everything they do is saved in their account and can be printed or downloaded at any time!

I hope you find some useful information in the Mercy Chatswood Careers Webpage! If you have any questions please email me at eric.regoli@dbb.catholic.edu.au Have a great year!

Cheers,
Mr Regoli
Careers Adviser