



The Mercy Voice

Term 1 Issue 3
26 February — 9 March
2018

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Upcoming Events:

TERM 1

WEEK SEVEN

**12 March—Open Touch
BBSSA**

**14 March—Year 10
Commerce Excursion**

**16 March—Years 11 & 12
Visual Arts Excursion**

WEEK EIGHT

**19 March—BBSSA
Swimming Carnival**

**19 March—Year 7
Parent/Student Study Skills
Evening 6.30pm**

**22 March—Years 11 & 12
English Excursion**

SAVE THE DATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Sunday we held our annual Open Day. It was a wonderful day of celebration as our girls demonstrated to the rest of the community all of their achievements as students at Mercy College.



We had over 550 people come through the College to see our College Band play, the College Choir perform, complete Science experiments in the Science Labs, be informed of classroom learning in other subjects and be feed cookies and sausage rolls by the Food Tech classes.

The constant comments I heard from our visitors was just how happy our girls appeared and how polite and welcoming they were. It is wonderful to see how proud they are to be Mercy Girls and how proud they are to show what they are learning at Mercy.

I would like to thank our girls for being such fantastic ambassadors and to also thank the 70 plus parents who came along on the day to volunteer to assist in welcoming our guests.



Cake made by
Angela P,
Year 11 Food
Tech class



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS MASS:

Each year new and long serving staff of all the schools in the Diocese are invited to celebrate Mass and to be recognised and blessed by Bishop Peter.

Last week, Mercy's new teachers joined the College Executive in attending the Eucharist together and we were particularly pleased to be able to recognise Mrs Wendy Symons (Mercy teacher of RE) for 25 years of service to Catholic Education.





Open Day



VIETNAM IMMERSION TOUR 2019

As you will be aware the school runs an immersion programme to Vietnam. Besides all the fun tourist things of learning about another culture, eating wonderful food and shopping, Mercy students are involved in building a school in a parish in Vietnam. Another group of students will be going in January 2019 to hopefully finish the project.

If your daughter is in Years 10 or 11 this year and is interested in going there is a **Parent Information Evening** in the Flex on **Monday 26 March** at 6.30pm. You and your daughter are most welcome to find out more about the immersion on this evening.

Comments from girls who went on this year's immersion.

"Such a great experience, seeing new things, observing a new culture" Ella

"This trip has changed my life and the way I look at myself, the world and others" Brianna

Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanagh

Principal



Meeting the village children in the mountains of Sapa, Vietnam

ILLNESS DURING THE DAY AND USE OF SICK BAY

Recently there have been a number of situations where students have contacted their parents directly, informing them that they are unwell. This has caused concern as parents have arrived at the office to collect their daughters only to find their daughters are not in sick bay and staff have no knowledge of their illness.

If your daughter becomes unwell while at school the following procedure is in place and needs to be followed:

*Sick bay is provided for the comfort of students who become ill during the day. It is not possible to provide all-day care for students. If a student remains unfit for class after a short period in sick bay, parents will be contacted by office staff and asked to make arrangements to collect her. **Students must not make their own arrangements to be collected by parents.** Parents are asked not to send their daughter to school who is obviously unwell.*

If your daughter becomes unwell during class she should advise her class teacher who will send her to Sick Bay. If she becomes unwell during recess or lunch she should present to Student Reception.

A reminder also that students should not be using their mobile phones between the hours of 8:35am and 3:10pm. We would ask that parents support this policy by contacting their daughters through the College office during the school day.

Please discuss these procedures with your daughter. Students are aware of the procedures and they are in the College Planner for future reference.

Your support in following these procedures, and ensuring the wellbeing of your daughter, is greatly appreciated.

Miss Kayrooz
Deputy Principal

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST – 7 MARCH, 2018



On International Women's Day we celebrate gender equality and the contribution and achievements of women in our society.

This week our Year 11 Student Leaders attended the Annual International Women's Day Breakfast at Monte St Angelo College, North Sydney. The Keynote Presenter was Ms Madeline Gleeson, a lawyer and Senior Research Associate at the Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.

Madeline has had extensive experience working with refugees with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Cambodia, and with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) in Geneva. Madeline spoke passionately about the meaning of 'justice' and 'social justice' in the context of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers both in Australia and as a global issue.

She suggested that justice for refugees requires a 'new approach' to the challenges of displacement and that justice for refugees requires five key principals including compassion, strength, resilience, creativity and critical thinking in resolving this issue.



When asked by a student, "What can we do to help refugees?" she answered, show compassion and keep caring about this issue.

The projects and the fundraising that you do in your schools matters. She urged us to look for opportunities to support the campaign for refugees, whether it be sending a letter to your local minister or protesting for the rights of refugees.

Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Director of Mission & Religious Education

MERCY CHAPEL MASS—YEAR 10 CSYMA CLASS BLESSING

This week we had a special prayer and blessing for our Year 10 CSYMA Class as they are called to be disciples in our community this year. In the Gospel, we heard Jesus' teaching on the importance of forgiveness and how to forgive others in our lives.

"Unless each of you forgive your brother and sister the Father will not forgive you." (Mt 18:21)

Fr. Andrew reminded us that Jesus calls us to show unlimited forgiveness to others in our lives which allows us to restore relationships that may be fractured or strained. We were blessed to have live music with a small liturgical band and choir, led by Mrs Lahiri, for the first time at our Chapel Mass. It was great to see members of our College community including parents join with Year 10 in this celebration of the Eucharist.



Blessing of the CSYMA Class



Father Andrew

Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Director of Mission & Religious Education

WELLBEING AT MERCY

This year we have dedicated more time to the RISE Wellbeing program. The girls are talking about wellbeing as a Year group every second Thursday in Year time and on most Wednesday's Day 8. All the Year Coordinators have one or two other teachers who have volunteered to be RISE Facilitators. These RISE Facilitators help the Year Coordinator deliver the program.

Over the past weeks some Year groups have been exploring what a positive class culture 'looks like', 'sounds like' and 'feels like'.

The Year group talks about and then decides on an Positive classroom agreement that they will use every lesson. By exploring what the students expect, it is also making each individual think about the contribution they make to a positive culture.

In the last newsletter I wrote about the Year groups exploring the factors that nourish a teenager's wellbeing and those factors that negatively impact their wellbeing. The aim of the exercise is to get the students to think about themselves. The lessons lead them to think about two questions:

1. What can they do to help themselves thrive?
2. What part do they play in assisting those around them and the community to thrive?

As we get further into the RISE program it is hoped the students will use the information they explore to be a healthier, and happier person who values the opportunities they are given and the relationships they have and makes a positive contribution at home, at school and beyond school. We also want to give them the tools to be able to cope with situations that do not have the desired outcome. We are using the phrase 'Mercy Girls RISE'. I will talk more about this phrase in the next newsletter.

Here are some images of Year 8 doing some warm up games that explores connectedness



Mrs G McDermott
Director of Student Wellbeing

MERCY COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Forecast: No More Storms!

Although fairies, princesses and other Disney characters may seem unrealistic, dreams came true for the McAuley team who denied Stormanston of a tenth straight win at the 2018 Annual Swimming Carnival.

A cracking summer's day welcomed the students and staff at Lane Cove Aquatic Centre but it was the House Cheers from Mercy which stole the show for the second year running. Originality, creativity, unity and volume were the key criteria which enabled the Mercy students to begin their day on a positive note and earn them some extra points towards the final outcome. Coolock finished agonisingly close in second place with McAuley and Stormanston rounding out third and fourth place respectively.

Once again, to increase the time available for the growing student population to participate, 200m individual medley and 50m Backstroke swimmers caught an early bus and swam their events prior to the remaining students arriving. As a result, students had the opportunity to swim in two participation races which contributed more than 500 points to the four Houses. Many students relished the participation races as it gave them a chance to swim with friends and earn some valuable points for their House.

After the frivolity and well-choreographed House Cheering performances, the Championship events soon began. Although only two records were broken throughout the day, many PB's were achieved and there was a substantial increase in the number of students participating in these more serious races. Chloe Mudadu, a Year 8 student, was crowned Champion Swimmer of the Carnival as she was unbeaten in all her events and also broke the 200m individual medley record for the 13 year age group.

Special mention must go to Lauren Hilder who also performed very strongly and remained unbeaten in her events.

Thanks must go to all students who swam, supported and displayed plenty of College spirit which made the carnival a success. Thank you also to the PDHPE staff for their valuable contribution, to the staff on the early bus for their commitment and to all staff for assisting in various duties, it was greatly appreciated. Finally, it was great to see so many parents and grandparents at the pool, your presence and support did not go unnoticed, thank you.

Champion House: McAuley

Champion Swimmer: Chloe Mudadu

New Records

Chloe Mudadu – 13 years 200m individual medley (2-59.09)

Mercy Junior Relay Team – 4x50m Swimming

	17+	Under 16	Under 15	Under 14	Under 13	Under 12
Age Champion	Mary-Ann Heaney	Lauren Hilder	Genevieve O'Brien	Caitlin Montgomery	Chloe Mudadu	Zefaria, Armatas
2 nd place	Zoe Coyne	Catherine Ho	Isabella Sheehan	Sofia Saroukos	Molly Montgomery	Imogen Hungerford
3 rd place	Lexie Keir	Brooke Atkin	Louise Frost	Olivia Thomson	Ashleigh Simpson	Darcy Frew Ella Joose

Mr M Cuttler
PDHPE Coordinator

SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Mr M Cuttler
PDHPE Coordinator

ELECTIVE MUSIC

Elective music students attended two wonderful concerts this week at the Opera House. On Monday we enjoyed some of the best performances from students who completed the HSC 2017 in the annual 'Encore' performance. This concert also showcased some amazing compositions from both Music 1 and Music 2 HSC courses.

This annual excursion provided inspiration for our Music students to not only reach for higher standards but to also discuss creative ideas for student compositions and Stage 6 performances.

The second concert this week was the first of our 'Meet the Music' concert series. Students watched the talents of Taiko Oz in a combined performance with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Afterwards students were able to discuss the complexity in scoring for such a diverse ensemble and use some of these ideas for future compositions.



Ms K McGreal & Mr M Robinson
Music Department

ARISE

Thursday at Lunch in the Chapel

Hey Girls! Come along to ARISE this Thursday at lunch, where there will be chocolate, FREE journals and Jesus! ARISE is a connect group run by myself (Immy) where we will explore ideas and topics relatable to teenage girls and see where Jesus fits into them and what he has to say about them.

If you are looking to be involved in a loving and safe community that focuses on acceptance, love and passion then ARISE is perfect for you. You are warmly welcomed to attend ARISE and I look forward to creating an atmosphere of encouragement and empowerment as our FRIEND Jesus is glorified.

Imogen O (Year 12)

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Public Speaking Competition has started. Mercy College public speakers participated in the first elimination round of the CSDA (Catholic Schools Debating Association) competition last Friday night. Nine Mercy students travelled to St. Augustine's, Brookvale and competed against local independent and systemic Catholic schools, including St. Ignatius College, Loreto Kirribilli and Marist Sisters, Woolwich.

I am very proud to announce that four speakers were selected to compete in the Zone Final on Friday 9th March: Sarah B, Hannah M, Isabella H and Georgia L.

Before the event, our talented speakers were riddled with the usual nerves that accompany speaking in front of a crowd. However, Miss Brandwood and I were very confident of success, having heard all the speeches in the preparation phase over the last two weeks. We were very impressed with the eloquent expression of their interesting ideas.

The compulsory topics included "be not afraid", "it gets better", and "a little bit of history repeating". Our students interpreted these ideas creatively and spoke about the female space, the evolution of friendship and self, the role of memory and the ubiquity of lies.

We congratulate all Round 1 Public Speakers:

Year 7 – Josie A and Georgia L
Year 8 – Isabella H and Logan M
Year 10 – Betsy W and Hannah M
Year 11 – Sarah B and Alessia I
Year 12 – Mary-Ann H

Mrs R Morgan
Public Speaking Coordinator



LEARNING AROUND CULTURES OF THINKING

Dr Ron Ritchhart from Harvard University spends the day at Mercy Catholic College

Mercy was fortunate to host Dr Ron Ritchhart this week to continue our learning around *Cultures of Thinking*, the framework that guides our teaching and learning at the College. Teachers from across the Diocese joined our own staff in Learning Labs, where they observed Ron co-plan, co-teach and debrief a lesson facilitated by a Mercy teacher, based on a thinking routine.

The day gave participants the opportunity to discuss with colleagues the ways in which we can foster greater critical and creative thinking in our students and engage them as independent learners. All Mercy staff were then able to hear Ron speak in the afternoon on ways to promote thinking within our classrooms through the use of new thinking routines.

It was a valuable opportunity to work so closely with the senior researcher at Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education and build on the work we have done to create a thinking culture at Mercy over the past few years.



Mrs K Fairbanks

Professional Development and Teacher Accreditation Coordinator

SEWING CLUB

Come and create

When: Friday lunch

Where: C30 Textiles room

What to bring: ideas of projects you would like to make, fabric and pattern.

Come to C30 if interested each Friday lunch



Mrs S Holman
Textiles teacher

MERCY CRICKET UPDATE

The Mercy Cricket team continues to show great improvement as the summer competition comes to a close. The girls won on Saturday v North Sydney, in what was probably the best team performance ever. Our fielding was first class as was our bowling. Against a strong opposition, the girls managed to keep their nerve and get the runs required for victory in the 19th over.

Some great performances all round from the team this season, but special mention should go to Mary B who is currently the equal second-best bowler in the competition. Also, in our previous match v Pymble Ladies College the team scored 84 runs for the 4th wicket.

Not only is this a club record, but it is also a competition record. Congratulations to the 6 girls involved in this achievement – Ruby F, Karisma W, Mary B, Sophie N, Charlotte W and Jade C.

Finally, we are getting a few enquiries from a number of girls wanting to play cricket for the school. We have also had a couple of Year 7 girls attend training, which is great to see. Our intention is to have at least two teams in the 2018 spring competition starting in October.

If your daughter is keen to play cricket later this year, or if they want to find out more information, then please email mercycricket@gmail.com or ring Derek on 0411046 835.



Mrs M Kellendonk
Co-Curricular Activities Administrator

MCC Netball Uniforms



For those wishing to buy or sell 2nd Hand Uniforms please use the Sustainable School Shop Website:

<http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au>.

Alternatively you may return donated second hand uniforms to Mrs Kellendonk.

margaret.kellendonk@dbb.catholic.edu.au



MCC Netball Coach and Manager Expressions of Interest

We are currently in the process of finalising teams. As always we need volunteer adult Coaches and Managers. If you are able to offer any help or would like more information on what is required, please contact Mrs Kellendonk or email: netballmcc@gmail.com



AFL NOW OFFERED AT MERCY COLLEGE

**NEW IN 2018
MERCY COLLEGE IN
CONJUNCTION WITH
THE LANE COVE CATS
IS OFFERING
STUDENTS THE
CHANCE TO PLAY AFL**



GWS Women's players visit Mercy

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

GREG BYRNE 0416 037278

U15YG@LANECOVECATS.COM



MCC 2018 Jersey

To make use of this offer, [click here](#) or head to our [online shop](#) on the Lane Cove Cats Junior AFL website and select Registrations.



MCC Co-Curricular Sport

Soccer 2018

Mercy participates in the North West Sydney Women's Football Association (NWSWFA) with the season commencing in April 2018. Most games are played at either Meadowbank or Putney, but can be elsewhere in the Ryde, Gladesville, or Hornsby areas. Starting times are variable, but always on Sundays. Games are played on long weekends and throughout the school holidays. Catch up games may be played on a Saturday due to cancellations (generally weather related)

Training: Beauchamp Oval Chatswood– Wednesdays 3:30pm-4:30pm
Adult Coach and Manager required for each team entered.

2018 Fees:

Junior Registration (11-17 years) - \$180

Senior Registration (18 years +) - \$190

Fee includes Uniform (Jersey and Shorts) competition registration, insurance and equipment.

Socks are to be purchased separately : \$12 pair

Active Kids Rebate

If you are eligible to claim the Active Kids Rebate please enter your Voucher Code when requested on the registration page and the \$100 credit will be added to your final invoice amount.

2018 Online Registration Link: [TBA](#)

Pre-Season dates:

Pre-season information will be advertised in the school bulletin, via email, in Tutor Group and on the MCC Notice Board.

Uniforms will be supplied to Manager of each team for distribution.

Whilst under the College umbrella, all MCC co-curricular team sports are coordinated and run by Parent Volunteers Each team will require an adult coach and Manager. Please think about offering your time to assist in these roles.



Any queries please contact: Mrs Kellendonk
Co-Curricular Activities Administrator margaret.kellendonk@dbb.catholic.edu.au
or 9419 2890



MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

This program is an extra-curricular activity being offered to all students at Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood to support the well-being of every student using Mindfulness and Positive Psychology techniques.

The program is designed to reduce stress and anxiety, and increase resilience. To enhance the well-being, students will explore breathing, listening skills, mindfulness, movement, positive affirmations, guided meditations, self belief, developing positive relationships to flourish, resilience and gratitude.

The lunchtime classes are practical and skill based. They will be held in the Drama Room at a cost of \$100 (8 week term).

Classes will be held on Thursday from 1.30pm to 2pm.

For registration and further information contact Donna D'Silva : donna.dsilva@dbb.catholic.edu.au



Testimonials:-

"Participating in the Mindfulness program has been a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. I found this a very helpful activity as it assisted me through exam times and taught me ways to deal with stress and anxiety. Also, being more aware and grateful for my surroundings is important and I found this a good way of letting go of my worries. I would definitely recommend the Mindfulness Program to everyone as it was fun and helped me to relax." (Year 9 student)

"I've found Mindfulness very enjoyable and I've deeply engaged with the strategies Ms D' Silva has taught me. I use these when I am nervous at times, including tests, appointments and anything that has made me feel anxious. I recommend this to you because it will make your life easier, and once you've learned these strategies you'll be able to use them for the rest of your life." (Year 10 student)

HSC @ willoughby



SURVIVING THE HSC

Free seminar to help students and parents
conquer the pressures of the HSC

Suitable for students Years 10–12 and their families

Tuesday 27 March 2018
Chatswood Library, 5.30–7.30pm

Bookings essential



Chatswood Library on The Concourse
Lower Ground, 409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood
9777 7900 | library@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library



Cocktail Party

You are invited to the 2018 Mercy College Cocktail Party

Chatswood Golf Club

128 Beaconsfield Rd

Chatswood

Friday 9th March

7pm–11pm

RSVP 5th March 2018

<https://www.trybooking.com/UHJR>

Tickets \$50 pp (includes drinks and canapes)

2018 P&F Function Dates

Open Day	Sunday 4 March
Mothers' Day Breakfast	Thursday 10 May
Fathers' Day Breakfast	Thursday 30 August
Graduation Afternoon Tea	Wednesday 26 September
Year 7 2019 Welcome BBQ	Friday 16 November

2018 P&F Meeting Dates

Term 1	21 February
Term 2	6 June
Term 3	15 August
Term 4	24 October (AGM)

COLLEGE ENROLMENTS



Year 7, 2020

Applications for placement in Year 7, 2020 are open and should be received by the College office by the end of Term 1 2018.

It is anticipated that the interview and acceptance process for entry into Year 7 2020 will commence in Term 3 2018.

Sibling Enrolments

Whilst preference is given to families with daughters already attending the College, **we MUST receive a completed enrolment application form for each daughter** you wish to send to the College.

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).

Alternately please direct your queries to the College Office on 9419 2890 or via kirsteen.fisscher@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Mrs Kirsteen Fisscher
College Registrar

Mercy Catholic College has launched *Qkr* (by *MasterCard*) as an easy to use, secure phone app for making payments from your mobile phone for co- curricular activities (i.e. Swimming, Cricket, Basketball, etc). *Qkr* will accept payment using **ANY** credit/debit card (except American Express) and has a simple checkout function.



Getting started!

Step 1. Download *Qkr!* on your Android phone or iPhone Via [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
iPad users can download iPhone App.

Step 2: Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3: Find Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood

Search for Mercy Catholic College or Chatswood

Step 4: Register your Child/ren

When first accessing your school menu; you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school payments on their behalf.

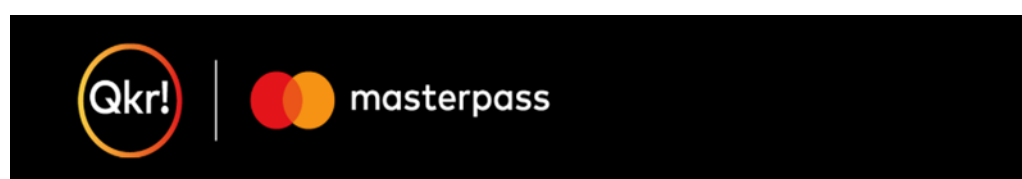
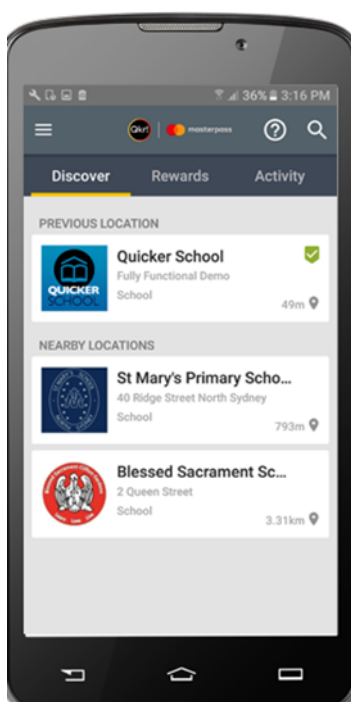
Note: The [Qkr web client](#) is available for those not wanting to complete transactions from their mobile phone.

About the *Qkr!* App

Qkr is a safe, secure and reliable way to pay for school items. *Qkr* is provided by MasterCard so you know the payments are secure. No information is stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the MasterCard network.

For more information please click on the link below or contact Mrs Margaret Kellendonk Co-curricular activities Administrator 9419 2890 or margaret.kellendonk@dbb.catholic.edu.au

[https:// www.marcard.com.au/en-au/about-mastercard/who-we-are/qkr.html](https://www.marcard.com.au/en-au/about-mastercard/who-we-are/qkr.html)



Q. How can I keep track of my Qkr! payments?

A. Itemized Qkr! eReceipts provide a record of purchase and are a convenient way to keep track of your Qkr! payments.

To view your eReceipts:

1. Open Qkr! and tap 'Activity'.
2. Scroll down to 'Order History' and tap 'Receipt' to view eReceipts.

Never lose a receipt: email receipts to your account:

1. Select the eReceipt you wish to email to yourself.
2. Tap on the mail icon at the top right of your screen.
3. Tap 'Send' to email the eReceipt to your email address, or enter another email address, and tap 'Send'.