



# The Mercy Voice

**Term 1 Issue 5**  
**26 March — 6 April**  
**2018**

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***Upcoming Events:***

**TERM 1**

**WEEK ELEVEN**

**10 April— Year 12 Modern  
History Excursion**  
**11-13 April—Year 12 Retreat**  
**Friday 13 April—Term 1  
Concludes**

**TERM 2**

**WEEK ONE**

**Monday 30 April—Term 2  
Commences**

**Friday 4 May—BBSSA Cross  
Country**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

To add to the strength of our current Student Leadership team, I am creating a new position which will commence in Term 2.



We have Portfolio Prefects and Representative positions which cover the co-curricular aspects of the College such as sport and the creative arts, but at present we don't have one which covers our core business of Learning.

A new position of **LEARNING PORTFOLIO PREFECT** in Year 11 and the Learning Representatives from the junior years will hopefully cover this shortfall.

This Prefect needs to have a love of learning (but not necessarily get the top marks) and be able to promote and encourage other students in their learning.

Year Co-ordinators will speak to the girls about this new position in their next Year meetings and have a vote either towards the end of term or the beginning of Term 2. The successful girls will be announced at an Assembly next term.

**STAFF NEWS:**

As a community we wished Miss Laura Snel a wonderful day as over the Easter break she was married. From the beginning of Term 2 she will take on her married name: Mrs Laura Love. Congratulations to Laura and Ben Love as they begin their married life together.

**SCHOOL FEES UNTIL 2022**

By now you would have all received a letter from Peter Hamill (Director of Schools) guaranteeing school fees for the next five years. In this letter he states that increases will be in the range of 1.5 to 3% each year, which is in line with the inflation rate of 2.1% (2017).

This is very good news for our families who struggle with Sydney house and rental prices and rising costs for electricity and food. It is important that you let others, friends and neighbours, know this good news. It would be a shame if Catholic families do not apply for Mercy College because of their concerns about costs and their fear that fees will continue to have substantial increases. We can now be assured that rises will be minimal.

### **PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE**

Sr Loreto (Congregational Leader, North Sydney Mercy Sisters) has asked me to attend a Leadership Conference next term. It pulls together Mercy leaders from all aspects of Mercy Works: education, medicine and pastoral care. As the conference is in Dublin I have added some Long Service Leave to it. I will therefore be away for the first three weeks of Term 2. Miss Liz Kayrooz will be the Acting Principal and Ms Gabie Stojanovski, the Acting Assistant Principal during this time.

### **ISSUES WITH NORTHERN BEACHES BUSES 136 AND 280**

Parents and carers of students on these two buses will be aware of the ongoing discussion regarding concerns about buses not picking up school children and the request for a designated school bus. The last response I received from the State Transit is below. As you can see their response is basically "additional school services are not provided". My only suggestion is that parents from this area continue to write to State Transit.

*Dear Suzanne*

*Thank you for your feedback regarding the 136 service, and the possibility of a dedicated school service towards Chatswood.*

*State Transit operates Metropolitan Bus Service Contracts on behalf of Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW). Any changes or additional services need to be approved by TfNSW. When a service is already in place, and it provides a service for school children, additional school services are not provided. Roadworks associated with the new Hospital at Frenchs Forest are causing problems with the on time running ability of the 136. This will continue until these works are complete.*

*I have forwarded your suggestion to the Traffic and Services Manager.*

*Kind regards*

*Anthony*

*Customer Relations,*

*Northern Region*

*State Transit*

### **AUTUMN HOLIDAYS**

The College closes on Friday 13 April and reopens two weeks later, on Monday 30 April. For any families or staff travelling during this time I wish them a safe and happy time.

I especially send good wishes and safe travels to the teachers and students going on the school tour to Italy over the holidays.

*Best wishes*



**Principal**

## Message from the Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 1 is quickly coming to an end which means it is time to look at the winter uniform for Terms 2 and 3. Below are the requirements for the winter uniform.

### Winter Uniform:

- Years 7-12: College kilt (length is to be 5cm below the knee), blouse, jumper, blazer, pale grey tights/stockings.
- All students: Skivvies are not to be worn under the blouse.
- Pale grey tights/stockings. Socks are not to be worn under tights/stockings.
- Black, lace-up leather school shoes with no coloured stitching, metal tabs or higher heels.
- Plain navy or black scarf (if required), to be purchased from the College office. Cost \$12 (made by ladies in Peru who are supported by the Sisters of Mercy)
- The College blazer must be worn as the outer garment in Terms 2 and 3.

### General Uniform Regulations:

- If hair touches the collar, it should be tied back with a ribbon, scrunchie or hairclip in navy, white or black.
- Hair should be a natural colour and of a conservative style.
- The following jewellery items may be worn: a watch, **one pair of plain studs or sleepers (gold or silver) in the lower lobe. All other facial piercing is prohibited.** A cross on a chain may be worn but must not be visible when worn with the school uniform.
- Make-up, nail polish, acrylic and gel nails are not to be worn.
- Chewing gum is prohibited.

Please ensure the kilt is the correct length. If you purchase a new kilt, it is important to leave enough hem for when it needs to be lengthened. Blouses need to be checked for sizing. The College blazer is to be worn to and from school each day in Terms 2 and 3.

It is important that the students wear their uniform with pride as they are ambassadors for themselves and the College.

Thank you for your ongoing support

**Ms E Kayrooz**  
***Assistant Principal***

### **AS WE APPROACH THE END OF TERM**

As the end of Term 1 draws closer you may find your teenage daughter feeling more tired and appearing a little more irritable. Please be assured this is natural. Your daughter must still be respectful and adhere to the family rules. Keep in mind your daughter started 2018 full of excitement and wonderful new goals.

She has worked hard in trying to please her teachers, completing all homework and assignments, while also trying to fit in co-curricular activities, so it is no surprise she may be feeling a little tired. If she is a little irritable, be able to read her body language, listen to her and pick your battles. If she starts talking about friendship breakdown, try to put it down to the fact it is the end of the term and her level of tolerance is not as strong when she is tired as it is at the beginning of a new term.

This term your daughter has participated in the RISE Wellbeing Program. In the RISE program, your daughter has looked at the positive and negative factors that help and hinder her wellbeing. She along with her Year Group have put together Wellbeing trees and then looked at what her Year Group sees as the ideal Mercy Girl. Each Year Group has come up with 15 words that they feel best captures for their Year, an ideal Mercy Girl.

These images of the Mercy Girl will be displayed next term near the canteen. Throughout the term it has been wonderful to see Year 10 work on the RISE program with their Year 7 Little Sisters.

The RISE program could not go ahead without the support of the teachers. In every Year Group we are fortunate to have at least two teachers who have volunteered to facilitate the program along with the Year Coordinator. I would like to thank the Year Coordinators and the RISE Facilitators for their commitment.

#### Raising independent teenagers: Tips from the Australian Parenting website

Here are some tips from the Australian Parenting website about supporting your teenage daughter. These suggestions support information I have written about in previous articles.

#### **1. Show your daughter lots of love and support**

Your love and support are essential for your daughter's self-esteem. Young people who feel good about themselves often have more confidence to discover who they are and what they want to do with their lives.

#### **2. Your daughter might not always want physical affection from you. But you can show your love and support by:**

- Take a genuine interest in your daughter's interests, hobbies and friends
- Making time to listen when your daughter needs to talk
- Giving your daughter space and privacy
- Regularly saying, 'I love you'

#### **3. Respect your daughter's feelings and opinions**

Try to tune into your daughter's feelings. It might help to remember that your daughter could be confused and upset by the physical, social and emotional changes of adolescence – but you're still your daughter's main source of emotional guidance and stability during this time.

Taking your daughter's opinions seriously gives an important boost to her self-esteem. But be prepared for the fact that her views might differ from yours. You can use this situation as a chance to talk about how people often have different perspectives.

Talking about your own opinions and feelings calmly can also help to keep the lines of communication open, and model positive ways of relating to others.

#### **4. Establish clear and fair family rules**

Stating clear family rules about behaviour, communication and socialising will help your daughter understand where the limits are and what you expect. Rules will also help you be consistent in how you treat your daughter. Once the rules are in place, apply them consistently.

As children get older, they can make more of a contribution to the rules and the consequences for breaking them. Involving your daughter in developing rules helps her to understand and take on the principles behind them. Every family has different rules. You can talk with your daughter about this and explain that her friends might have different rules, or a different number of rules.

If you set the limits too strictly, your daughter might not have enough room to grow and try new experiences. This period is a learning curve for both of you. Be prepared for some trial and error.

#### **5. Treat your daughter in a way that's appropriate for her stage**

Younger teenagers might think they're ready to make their own decisions, but they often haven't developed the decision-making skills they'll need to handle significant responsibility without your help. It can be a good idea to explain to your daughter why younger and older children are given different amounts and types of responsibilities.

If you would like more information or to see some of the videos below is the link.

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/independence\\_teenagers.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/independence_teenagers.html)

Have a wonderful break and, enjoy your time with your daughter. Remember just sitting on a lounge watching movies together are special moments and memories to treasure.

**Mrs G McDermott**  
***Director of Student Wellbeing***



### POETRY IN ACTION

Recently Year 12 Standard classes and all Year 11 attended performances by POETRY IN ACTION. The company presented intelligent, complex and moving presentations. Students and teachers were thoroughly entertained.

The Year 12 Standard classes were engaged by "Words of War". The actors presented the poems of Wilfred Owen, who died one hundred years ago in World War I. His poetry became visible and credible through the performance.



As the actors brought the poet's context to life, the Flex was tense with Owen's bitterness and heartbreak. The performance and explanation of "Dulce et Decorum Est", "Futility" and "Anthem for Doomed Youth" provided access points into the revision of the HSC poems before the Half Yearly Examinations. Students were able to look at the poems they knew differently, with more empathy and with greater understanding of the horrors that prompted them.

The whole of Year 11 attended "Fact Vs Fiction". This was a new show which innovatively explored the power of words and the way effective communicators direct and create our thinking. It examined the manipulation of perspectives and showed how truth can be hard to discern. This was a funny, fast-paced play which drew on excerpts from real life, film, television and poetry. Students were encouraged to question and challenge the way information is presented to us. It sounds heavy but the performance was full of humour, which the girls enjoyed immensely. The director of "Fact Vs Fiction", Chris Stollery, also attended and he was very impressed with the way the girls responded to the ideas and the performance.

**Mrs R.Morgan**  
**English Coordinator**



### YEAR 11 BIOLOGY EXCURSION TO NORTH NARRABEEN ROCK PLATFORM

Year 11 students have commenced the new Year 11 Biology Syllabus this year. In the topic, Ecosystem Dynamics, they have been learning about ecosystems and sampling techniques to determine the distribution and abundance of organisms.

Part of this new syllabus, requires students to undertake a depth study. Students travelled to North Narrabeen Rock Platform on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Students undertook sampling techniques on both the natural rock platform and man-made sea walls, to compare the species diversity. The data collected is now being used to complete their depth study back at school to answer the Inquiry Question: How could man-made structures be adapted to benefit marine life?

Students are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour on this excursion.

**Mrs V Smelders**  
**Science Teacher**



Students identifying various species



Claudia finding a sea star



Students using quadrats to determine species abundance.



Maya and Luca delighted at finding a Turban Snail.



### MERCY ITALY IMMERSION 2018



Arrivederci! Next Saturday 32 students and 4 teachers are off to Italy for two weeks. We will be immersing ourselves in the history, art and culture of Italy.

Follow our adventure on Instagram, search for **Mercy Italy Immersion 2018**

**Ms J Lennon**  
***Creative Arts Co-ordinator***



## 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*

### BBSSSA SWIMMING CARIVAL

On the 19th of March 2018 the BBSSSA swimming carnival was held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

The students that participated were Zefaria, Emily, Lauren, Catherine, Imogen, Emanuela, Molly, Caitlin, Chloe, Mia, Genevieve, Sofia, Isabella, Ashleigh, Michelle, Imogen and Jessica.

There was one swimmer that made it to the NSWCCC and that was Chloe M (Year 8).



## NETBALL AND SOCCER

**Good Luck**  
**to our 22 Netball and 3 Soccer teams who**  
**commence their 2018 Season this weekend.**



### MCC Netball Uniforms



For those wishing to buy or sell 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **P&F NEWS**

#### **Year Group Parents 2018**

We still need parent volunteers for Year 11 and Year 12. If you would like to assist with Year 7, Year 9 or Year 10 that would be great. If you are interested in managing the list for your daughter/s Year Group or helping organise some social gatherings for the Year Group please let me know.

Best wishes for a wonderful April break. Safe travels if you going away for the holidays.

As always, please feel free to email me with any questions, ideas or feedback.

**Tina Teixeira**  
**President P&F**  
[mccpandf@gmail.com](mailto:mccpandf@gmail.com)

### **UPCOMING DATES**

#### **2018 P&F Function Dates**

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 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](http://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](mailto: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.

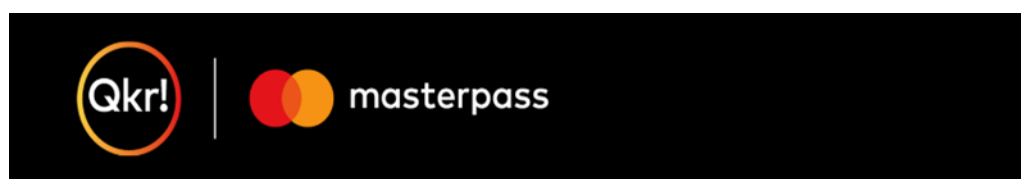
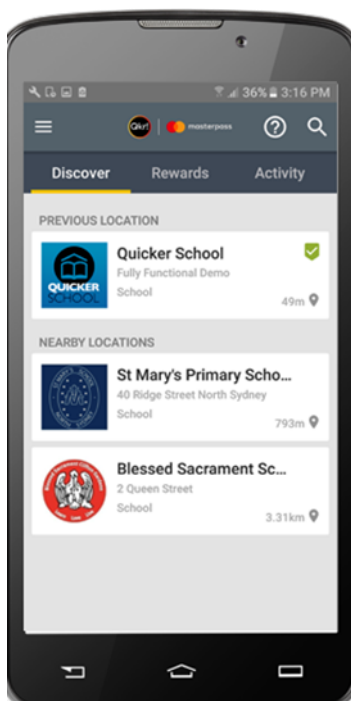
**Note: The [Qkr web client](#) is available for those not wanting to complete transactions from their mobile phone.**

### 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](mailto: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'.