



The Mercy Voice

Term 4 Issue 4
26 November — 14 December
2018

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Upcoming Events:

TERM 1

SCHOOL RETURNS 2019

Wednesday 30 January
8.30am—12 noon
Year 7 and Year 10

Wednesday 30 January
9.00am—10.00am
All New Year 8—11 Students

Thursday 31 January
ALL STUDENTS
YEARS 7—12

SAVE THE DATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our annual Awards Night this week was a powerful reminder of the great quality of education we are providing here at Mercy College. We recognised all our high achievers; our learners, artists, athletics, musicians and actors.



We welcomed ex-Mercy girl, Dr Brindha Shivalingam to give the Occasional Address in which she relayed her story of coming to Australia as a refugee from Sri Lanka after the civil war. She spoke of the welcome, support and encouragement she received at Mercy College in her high school years and how she has gone on to be the Director of Neurosurgery at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse cancer hospital.

Brindha's story is an inspiration to us all, it shows our students what they can aspire to; what hard work and dedication can achieve.

HSC RESULTS: as we go to print we are beginning to hear the first of the results of the HSC for our 2018 cohort. I list below some of the achievements and congratulate all of our students.

- Victoria Lonergan with an ATAR of 99.05 is recognised as an All Rounder – Band 6 in all subjects
- 45 Distinguished Achievers – which means they achieved a Band 6 in at least one subject.
- 62% of students received Band 5 or above
- We are above the State with the State mean being 69.7, Mercy's mean 73.7
- Mercy gained first place in eleven subjects in the Diocese
- Twelve students out of 72 (17%) received an ATAR of 90 or above
- We are ranked in the top 18% of the State

STAFF FAREWELLS: We have three staff members leaving Mercy this year:

Mrs Terrie Franklin who started with us in 2014 as a teacher of Economics and Business Studies and then took on the role of Co-ordinator this year. Mrs Franklin is a very committed and passionate teacher who has always worked to ensure that students taking her subjects are given the best possible learning experiences.

Mrs Cettina Lahiri who has been with us since midway through 2016, on temporary contracts in the HSIE and Religion departments. Her contract ends with us and I thank her for her dedication to her students.

Mr Tony Scro who has been our maintenance man since 2012. So much of his work might go unnoticed as we have an expectation that everything works. If it didn't work Tony was there to fix it and we have appreciated his commitment to the job. He retires to spend more time with family and doing the things that give him joy.

YEAR CO-ORDINATORS 2019: There has been some changes in the positions of Year Co-ordinators next year. I would like to thank Mrs Loy, Mr Cuttler and Mrs Love for their dedication to their roles as Year Co-ordinators. They have cared for and nurtured our students throughout the year. They will not be continuing in their roles in 2019.

I am pleased to announce the following staff will be looking after your daughter's wellbeing next year.

Year 7: Ms Tracey Stancliffe

Year 8: Mrs Genine D'Arcy

Year 9: Mrs Fiona Cunningham

Year 10: Mrs Ros O'Halloran

Year 11: Mrs Wendy Symons

Year 12: Ms Catriona McDonald

CHRISTMAS WISHES: I hope everyone enjoys the summer holidays and has time to relax and spend time with family and friends.

I wish everyone in our community, our parents, our students and our staff all the blessings of the Christmas season and peace and happiness in the New Year.

Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanagh

Principal



"Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19)

This year we have been inspired by the words of Jesus, to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). To be a disciple calls us to action, to go forth, serve others and make a difference in our world. This term students and staff have shown immense generosity by supporting numerous social justice initiatives which have included:

- The Year 9 Fundraiser "Share the Dignity"
- The MAG Cake Stall which raised money for Coles vouchers for refugee families
- Tutor Groups donating food and Christmas items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal
- A clothes drive to donate to our local St Vincent de Paul store which was initiated by Year 7 student Anneliese J.



These acts of mercy, kindness and generosity are what the Christmas spirit is all about, as we at Mercy College have sought to bring about the presence of Jesus into our community.

In November we marked the conclusion of the Year of Youth with the Catholic Youth Broken Bay Youth Discipleship Awards. These awards were issued to honour and celebrate the achievements and contributions of our youth to faith leadership in our diocese. I am pleased to announce that the following members of our College community received nominations for the Youth Discipleship Awards.

- Imogen O'Carroll was nominated in the Under 18s Category for her involvement in the 'Mary of Now' Drama at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in which she undertook the lead role of Mary. Imogen was also recognised for her contribution to faith leadership at Mercy College by initiating the Shine Connect Group which was a Bible studies group that focussed on how the message of Jesus empowers young women today.
- The Cast of the 'Mary of Now' Drama were nominated in the Under 18s Category for their involvement in the 'Mary of Now' Drama at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival which performed at each of the Plenary Sessions.
- Mrs Amy Gill our former Drama Teacher was also nominated in the Over 35 Category for her involvement in writing and producing the 'Mary of Now' Drama Performance.

I am so delighted that we have received these nominations recognising the contributions of our students and their generosity as authentic witnesses of faith. I would like to congratulate all of the nominees for their involvement in bringing to life the message of Jesus in a contemporary way that has engaged the youth in our Church.



Message from the Director of Mission and Religious Education

At the beginning of Term 4 Fr. Jim met with the incoming 2019 College Leaders from Mercy College and St Pius to discuss ways in which the parish and the schools can build an inclusive community of faith.



One of the initiatives that was introduced as a result of this meeting was inviting Mercy College and St Pius students to lead the ministries at the Parish's 5:30pm Sunday Youth Mass on the 4th Sunday of each month.

The first College's Youth Mass was held on Sunday 25 November and over 30 students attended. Our students were involved as Ministers of the Word, Ministers of Communion and Music Ministers.

They also led the offertory and collection during the Mass. The evening concluded with a BBQ and social for the students and parishioners. We look forward to continuing this new opportunity for celebrating the Eucharist and building fellowship and solidarity as a community in faith.

Sarah B our College Captain also addressed the congregation at the Youth Mass to promote the good news from Mercy College:

Moving into 2018, our community hopes to build strong relationships by fostering a culture that promotes the Mercy values of respect, compassion, integrity, excellence and hospitality. On Sunday 25 of November, numerous Mercy students participated in Our Lady of Dolours Parish Youth Mass, a crucial step in incorporating the importance of faith as a focus for 2019.



Through attending our College's local Parish Mass we seek to both build unity in our Chatswood community, as well as highlight the role of spirituality in enabling young people to find fulfilment in our own lives through carrying out service to others. Particularly as we embrace the Christmas spirit, decorating our school halls in a competition between colour Houses, and decorating ornaments in Tutor Group, we are also encouraged to respond to God's call, by seeking meaning and joy in asking what we can do help others. Mercy and St Pius hope to continue their participation and involvement in the monthly Parish Youth Masses to promote unity through our Catholic faith.



Fr Jim would also like to extend an invitation to our students and their families to the Christmas Eve Mass at OLD Church. His invitation is below:

Christmas Eve Mass: Fr Jim invites students, families and teachers of Mercy College to join him for **Chatswood Parish's 8.30pm Christmas Eve Mass**. One way traffic access will be via Kirk St into the St Pius X College grounds. On behalf of the Parish Fr Jim wishes all of the Mercy College community a joyful Christmas and a safe and happy holiday.

Fr. Jim

Our final Mercy Chapel Mass for the year led by Year 9 students who will form our new CSYMA class in 2019. Our Chapel Masses have been well-attended in 2018 and have provided a regular opportunity to share in celebrating in the Eucharist for the students and staff in the Chatswood precinct.



Year 6 students from Our Lady of Dolours Primary School presented Ms Kavanagh with a new Pascal Candle as a gift to the Chapel. The Pascal Candle is decorated with the crests of our three schools, symbolising the coming together of our communities in faith.

Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Director of Mission & Religious Education

CHRISTMAS TIME AND HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR DAUGHTER

Christmas time is always a special and joyous time. Everyone has an opportunity to stop and relax and spend more time with those they love. Be aware for a young person the holiday season can be disruptive because their normal routine without the school structure goes out the window. The hardest part of holidays for your teenage daughter is because she does not get to hang out with their friends every day. Though it is good to have a break from friends and school, remember social interaction is important for teenage girls. If your daughter wants to catch up with friends there is an added financial pressure during holidays.

Your daughter will want to spend time watching youtube videos and other shows online, this is normal, but do encourage reading, time outside her room and venturing outdoors. If you can get a chance, take your daughter to a café and have special parent time with her. Treasure these moments because they really do grow up so fast.

In preparation for your daughter's return to school make sure she is getting to sleep at a reasonable time and not using her phone as an alarm clock, invest in an alarm clock. Take her phone away an hour before bedtime and encourage her to read. Here is a link about sleep:

[SMH- Good Weekend 18 March 2017: A sleep deprivation epidemic is endangering the health and learning of our 14 year olds-and it's not just technology that's to blame](#)

On behalf of the Pastoral team at Mercy I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing your daughter in 2019.



Mrs G McDermott
Director of Student Wellbeing

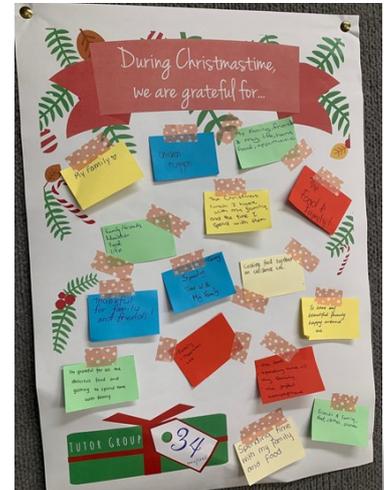
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT MERCY

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the excitement of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Advent and Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail? More than that, it is a time for giving and generosity. A time of spreading the Spirit of Hope and Peace and joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus.

At Mercy, we began spreading Christmas spirit in Week 5, when many of us, in our Tutor Groups, shared what we are truly grateful for, and remembering the love and joy that is often associated with the time.

Also in Week 5, we began collecting items for our Vinnies hamper drive as we recognised that for many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. Many people cannot afford to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. We tried to understand that some people are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who they will not be able to spend time with for different reasons, and that Christmas can also be a time that highlights just how difficult their situations are.

Recognising this, many students and teachers have shown great love and compassion by donating generously to the different initiatives such as the Vinnies Christmas Hampers, the Vinnies clothes drive and also, most recently the Mercy Action Group goodies sale which raised funds to buy Coles gift cards for Refugees as a part of the Edmund Rice Centre's SIREP program.



Hamper Donations



Message from the Youth Minister

Here at Mercy the generous spirit of Christmas has been truly alive. We'd like to thank all of those who have donated and raised the spirit in any way, whether it was time spent planning and decorating the Tutor Group Ornaments, sharing your stories, giving of money and goods towards the Vinnies drives, baking and assisting with the MAG goodies sale or decorating your areas.

Thank you. God bless you and your families this Christmas season, and continue spreading the love.



Tutor Group Christmas
Tree decoration
Competition



Ms Charisse Gange
Youth Minister

COLLEGE BACKPACK AND SPORTS BAG

Mercy Catholic College Backpack and Sports Bag will no longer be available through Lowes.

The new supplier will be Cowan and Lewis located at 1315 Pacific Hwy, Turrumurra.

Backpack orders may be placed online or alternatively, parents are welcome to go to the shop Monday- Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm or Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm.

Go to <http://cowanlewis.com.au>

Hover over the **SCHOOLWEAR** link

Click **ON CAMPUS**

Locate Mercy Catholic College and place order

Review your cart, enter your details and select payment method and shipping method. Proceed to checkout to complete your order.

Shipping Methods – Free delivery to school, twice per week on Tuesday and Thursday

Purchases may also be posted home for a fee

Payment methods – Credit card, print fax order form or arrange a phone call for an over the phone payment.

If you require any assistance with online ordering, please contact Cowan and Lewis on (02) 9449 8931.

Ms Kath Parker
Business Manager



CONGRATULATIONS

Edlyn Kim with her HSC Body of Work. Edlyn's HSC Visual Arts Body of Work has been nominated for Artexpress.

Well done Edlyn

SHARE THE DIGNITY

Year 9 students chose 'Share the Dignity, It's in the Bag' fundraiser as their charity of choice this year. The girls brought in items such as shampoo and conditioner, sanitary items, soaps and toothpaste to fill handbags for homeless women. The girls, with the help of teachers filled 25+ handbags that were dropped off at Bunnings to be delivered in time for Christmas.

Year 9 Religious Education have been busy packing the bags for Share the Dignity's "It's in the Bag" campaign. We packed 20 bags and they all wrote encouraging messages on personal Christmas cards too. I like that the photo below encapsulates the Mercy teachings on the panels.



DOROTHEA MACKELLAR AWARDS

In June, we entered nine poems in the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards. The theme was "I Have Promises to Keep". We are proud to celebrate two awardees. Emanuela L of Year 7 was highly commended for her poem "Memory" and Olivia R of Year 11 was commended for her poem "Desert". We are so happy to celebrate these wonderful poems and student success.



Highly Commended

Emanuela L Year 7

"Memory"

Outside it is raining.
Children are laughing,
Splashing in puddles.
All the trees are bare;
All, except for one.
I walk over to it.
There is only one leaf left.
I reach out and take hold of it.
It's green.
It shall keep me company while I move.
Now outside it is sunny.
Children are laughing
As they play in the soft golden sand.
All the trees are different
From the ones at home.
They are full of life;
All, except for one.
I pull out the now dry leaf that
Kept me company when I moved.
I smile.
I remember.

Commended

Olivia R Year 11

"Desert"

I meet the sun's confronting glare
Heat-waves dance and contort my view.
This lonely place is too harsh for most
Not for me.
Not now.
This desolate place,
Tangible energy within the air,
Senses redemption.
Its black ancient heart skips a beat.
The sky screams with the promise of rain
And I scream back.
The red earth trembles beneath my feet.
Water meets burned dirt
Turning it into streams of blood.
I fall to my knees.
Promise kept.

Judges Comments:

Emanuela L Judge's Comment- "This is a simple but powerful depiction of growing up, moving on, and reminiscing. This is how poetry is supposed to work. Nice one."

Olivia R Judge's Comment: "An interesting approach to this year's suggested theme. Short and powerful."

Rachel Morgan
English Co-ordinator

YEAR 8 FRENCH INCURSION

Le petit déjeuner à la française

On Friday the 7th of December, Year 8 were able to experience a traditional French breakfast (le petit déjeuner) of hot chocolate (le chocolat chaud) and croissants. We had started the topic of food by recognising which foods were eaten in France for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We then researched the different food eaten during celebrations in France. This helped us to invest ourselves further in to French culture.

During the incursion, we learnt the proper way of how the French would eat croissants for breakfast, that is, to dip it in the hot chocolate before eating it! This way of eating the croissant was a unique and tasty way of enjoying our breakfast.

We then listened to French Christmas songs, and played a game where you had to guess the word said in the song. This game was challenging, fun and tested our French listening skills. "Chocolat Chaud" was another game played on the day. This was a guessing game to work out which of us was speaking - it tested our pronunciation and listening skills. We also played a kahoot about Christmas in France which was a very fun way to test our knowledge on the traditions there.

This experience was very fun and exciting for our whole class. It was an engaging way of learning about the alluring culture of France and the traditional food eaten in France.

Henceforth, we now know more about the French culture, and have experienced a true French breakfast.

Joyeux Noël et Bon appétit!

Deanna A - 8B



MERCY BASKETBALL - 2018 Season Two Basketball Wrap

It was great season for Mercy Basketball, with all teams progressing to the semi-finals, three teams playing in the grand final and two teams taking the winners title.

Mercy has a small number of enthusiastic girls who make up our current four teams. It was fantastic to have two new teams, Mercy Mavericks (Year 7) and Mercy Opals (Year 8 & 9 combined) start this year playing in the Manly Warringah Basketball Association Competition (MBWA) to join our Mercy Magic (Year 10) and Mercy Wildcats (Year 9) who play in the Northern Suburbs Basketball Association Competition (NSBA).

It was particularly pleasing to see the Mavericks and Opals do so well in their first season together. Although both missed out on the grand prize, they should be very proud of their performances for teams playing together for the first time.

Our four teams will be back for season one 2019. Naturally, I would like to see more basketball teams representing Mercy (one team per Year would be fantastic). We have the opportunity to register more teams for season two 2019 which starts in term 3, so please let Margaret Kellendonk know if you are interested in joining or putting together a team. (eight players is the ideal minimum number for a team)

John Harmata MCC Basketball Convenor



CRICKET NEWS

Mercy 'Mangoes' Under 13's T20 Cricket

The Mangoes finished the spring competition with their most impressive performance of the season. Abbotsleigh, batting first, were all out for 33. Hannah J taking a Mercy record of 4 wickets for just 2 runs. Eadie C also took a wicket, whilst Lily B took 2 catches, including a one-hander.

The girls wrapped up the game in the 9th over scoring 34 runs for the loss of 2 wickets. Top scorers being Eadie C with 12 and Emma B with 7.

The Mangoes finished the season in second position with 5 wins and 2 losses. Overall, the team has played exceptionally well and are looking forward to the summer competition starting in February.

Mercy Cricket Under 15's T20 Cricket

The Under 15's were also playing Abbotsleigh in the last game, but unfortunately our opponents had to forfeit. Despite this the girls had a good season finishing 4th out of 8. One of the highlights was the game against Gordon when the girls held their own against a very good Gordon team.

Our bowling continues to be our strength with great performances from Sophie N, Mary B and Annabelle S. Topping the batting in the spring competition were Rahni W and Ruby B.

The girls are looking forward to another good season when the summer competition starts in February.

“That’s all folks!!!

2018 school year done and dusted.

Thank you to all the Mercy families for their continued support and commitment to our amazing school!

I am humbled and honoured to have been able to be a part of the P&F this year. It has been a wonderful experience.

I am grateful for the support and guidance I received from Mrs Kavanagh and the school executive. It has been a privilege getting to know you and working with all of you.

Thank you to the office staff who were always ready to help out with sending out emails and invitations, forwarding P&F mail, reminding me of newsletter deadlines. You ladies are amazing!

Last but not least, thank you to Shyla Stephen, Annelise Pearce and Jacqui Hester for being an amazing set of ladies to have worked with throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Tina Teixeira
P&F President”



MERCY CATHOLIC COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD Est. 1890

Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning since 1890

At Mercy College we recognise a girl's individual talent and strive to provide positive experiences so each may realise their full potential. We aim to develop young women who will be resilient, respectful, compassionate, independent and leaders of the future.

Through excellence in education, our young women are inspired to become critical and creative thinkers and leaders with a sense of social responsibility and discipleship.

**Accepting applications
for Year 7, 2021 now**



Catholic Girls Secondary College, Years 7 – 12

Mercy Catholic College 101 Archer Street, Chatswood NSW 2067

Phone: 02 9419 2890 | www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au



St Paul's Catholic College - Manly

EDUCATING BOYS IN YEARS 7 TO 12



Thursday 7th March 2019

4pm – 7pm

Guided tours | The College in Action | Meet the College Leadership Team | Complimentary BBQ

**Come and visit our College
and learn more about St Paul's**

- A quality education with a focus on excellence
- Small enough to care for our students' wellbeing
- Innovative learning
- A College on the move

ENROLLING NOW

Enrolment enquiries: enrolments@dbb.catholic.edu.au

PRIMA PRIMUM : First things first

A systemic education in the Diocese of Broken Bay

Darley Road, Manly - Tel: 9977 5111 - www.stpaulsmanly.nsw.edu.au



MINDFULNESS, MEDITATION AND RELAXATION

Encouraging, enriching, empowering

In 2019, Mindfulness, Meditation and Relaxation classes are being offered to all students at Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood, to support the health and well-being of each student. This program is designed to reduce stress, reduce anxiety and increase resilience. To enhance health and well-being, students will explore breath; mindfulness; movement; positive affirmations; guided meditations; self-belief; developing positive relationships; resilience and gratitude.



Time: Thursday 8 to 8.30am

Place: Drama Room

Cost: \$100 (8 classes)

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 Mercy student, 2018)

"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 11 Mercy student, 2018)

For further information contact Donna D'Silva

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