



The Mercy Voice

Term 1 Issue 3
25 February—8 March
2019

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Upcoming Events:

TERM 1

WEEK SEVEN

- 11 March—Year 12 Biology Excursion**
- 12 March—Year 9 French Excursion**
- 14 March—Year 10 Commerce Excursion**
- 15 March—Yr 11 & 12 Textiles & Design Seminar**
- 15 March—Year 11 Design & Technology Excursion**

WEEK EIGHT

- 18 March—Year 11 Biology Field Trip**
- 18 March Year 7 Study Skills Evening 6.30pm**
- 20 March—Information Evening for Students in Year 10 & 11 2019 Vietnam Immersion January 2020 6.00pm in the Library**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The **College's Open Day** last Sunday, was a wonderful celebration of who we are at Mercy. We had around 800 people (mums, dads, grandparents, children) come through the school to see what we have to offer our students. From experiments in the Science Labs, cooking in the Food Tech kitchens to music and song provided by our College band and choir, all inspired our young primary school visitors.



Our new campus certainly got a lot of positive comments, as the classrooms are spacious and furnished with modern, flexible modules to cater for device learning approaches.

Thank you to all our girls who were wonderful ambassadors demonstrating to our visitors with pride, what the Mercy spirit is all about. Also a big thank you to our parents who assisted to welcome prospective parents, showing what a vital part of our community our families are. And naturally, a thank you to all the staff who continually show their commitment to the College.

OVERSEAS IMMERSIONS 2020:

I have had a few parents query what overseas tours will be running next year, so to clarify:

Vietnam Immersion: January 2020 - social justice, history, culture. Information evening for parents 20 March 6pm in the Library

Italy/France: April 2020 - language, art, history, culture. Information evening for parents 26 March in the Flex

ST VINCENT DE PAUL BURSARY:

Vinnies are offering Bursaries to families who would like assistance with paying school fees. If your address is Lane Cove, North Sydney or Mosman and you meet their criteria they will provide \$3200 towards school fees. Please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Kath Parker if you are interested in finding out more.

STUDENT OPAL CARD:

Just a reminder that it is a condition of use that students tap on at the start and tap off at the end of each trip. We have been informed that data is showing that many students have failed to do this.

Message from Principal

Please chat to your daughters to remind them, as this is the only way data is collected by State Transit about what routes students are using. If students do not tap on and off then the service may appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

LENT:

Wednesday of this week, Ash Wednesday began the Lenten season leading up to Easter. Fr Jim celebrated the Eucharist with us and distributed ashes to remind us of our humanness. Fr Jim's homily was based on an experiment completed by Stanford University, testing self-gratification.

He told the story about the marshmallow test which a number of you may have read or heard before, where 5 year olds are presented with a marshmallow and told they can eat it now or wait 5 minutes and then they will be given another one or another reward such as a cookie. Researchers who followed-up the children later in life found that those who were able to wait longer for the reward tended to have better educational attainment and life outcomes.

There is a lesson for us all here, which is relevant to Lent, in that patience, self-control and not seeking instant gratification can lead to greater rewards in the future.



Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanagh

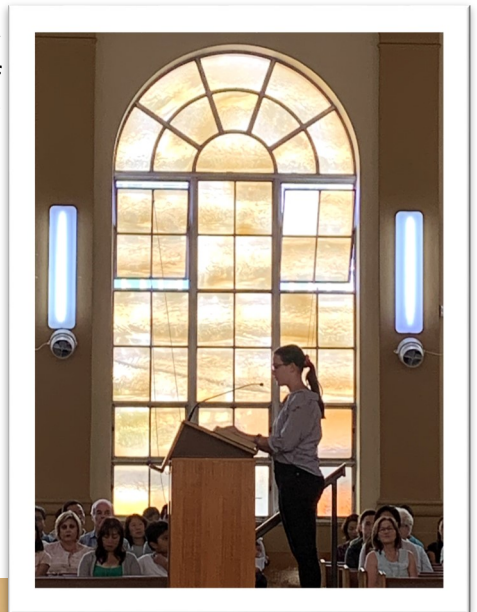
Principal

Mercy and St Pius X Colleges Sunday Youth Mass

At the end of last year Fr. Jim met with the incoming 2019 College Leaders from Mercy College and St Pius X College 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 X College 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 for the year was held on Sunday 24 March and over 20 students attended. Mercy 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 tradition for celebrating the Eucharist and building fellowship and solidarity as a community in faith.



ASH WEDNESDAY – 6 March

Remember man that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

Ash Wednesday marks the official start of the holy season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. During Lent we are called to renew our relationship with Jesus and others, especially the poor, through the penitential practices of prayer, abstinence and almsgiving.



Lent is a time of repentance, a time to say sorry for those things that we have done that we are not proud of, seek God's forgiveness and receive His mercy. It is a time for us to be self-giving rather than self-serving, it is a time to think of others and about how we can be the face of Christ in this world.



Caritas - Project Compassion 2019

During Lent we fundraise for the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. This year the theme is '100% Hope – Lives change when we all give 100%'. Caritas aims to provide assistance to the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity through long-term development programs in countries such as Zimbabwe, Indonesia, the Soloman Islands, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Australia.



The Mercy Action Group launched our appeal at our Ash Wednesday Mass. Each Tutor Group will receive a Project Compassion box which will be passed around for collection each morning. Individual students will also receive an individual Project Compassion box to collect money from family and friends. Your donations can make a big difference in helping impoverished communities become stronger and more resilient.

Please give Lent 100% by supporting Project Compassion in 2019.

International Women's Breakfast – 6 March

On International Women's Day we celebrate gender equality and the contribution and achievements of women in our society. The theme for 2019 is 'Think Equal Build Smart Innovate for Change' with a focus on eradicating human trafficking in our world.



On Wednesday 6 March, Year 11 and 12 Student Leaders attended the Annual International Women's Day Breakfast at Monte St Angelo College, North Sydney. The Keynote Presenters were Siobhan Moroney and Sophie Janseens who work for Freedom Hub, a social enterprise that fights to end modern slavery while providing aftercare for survivors of human trafficking in Australia. They spoke passionately about the work of Freedom Hub, an organisation that strives to support survivors in independent living, social engagement, adopting healthy living and providing employment pathways.

We were presented with practical strategies on how we can personally help or respond to the issue of human trafficking such as:

- raising awareness through engagement with the #small change big effect
- be a conscious consumer and purchasing ethical brands
- visit the Freedom Hub Café in Waterloo where 100% of the profits go towards fighting modern slavery in Australia



Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Director of Mission & Religious Education

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (CSSA)— PORT MACQUARIE

I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to attend the annual CSSA Conference, this year held in Port Macquarie. Focusing on the theme of breaking down silos within the Church, much of the conversation was centred around the interrelatedness of the many facets of vocations related to Catholicism.

As a student, my understanding of these vocations is very much limited to the education sector, and it was an enlightening experience to be able to engage with the knowledge of individuals involved in social services and members of the clergy, as well as offer my own perspective on various issues.

Inevitably, the discussion went on to address the role of the Church, and even the nature of faith as a whole, in our rapidly evolving society.

I heard the insight of figures such as Father Frank Brennan on the issues that have and continue to impact on both Catholicism and its place in the world, including the abuse scandals, environmental crises, and political uncertainty. The intentions articulated cemented my hope that the efforts being made to address these topics, such as the Plenary Council, were genuine and could lead to long overdue reform in our institution.

As well as attending the seminars, I was able to participate in a youth focused workshop regarding the act of 'overcoming the mountain', which highlighted how we as young people can recognise the unmet needs in modern Australia, and engage with our capacity to do something about it.

I was continually reminded of Pope Francis' words concluding the World Youth Day Mass in Panama, that young people "are not the future but the now of God". A theme expressed in our College's opening Mass earlier this term, it is becoming overwhelmingly apparent that the best time to effect change is now. Though I struggle to recall a moment in history when anything was completely certain, the twelve year window to save our planet and seemingly monumental shifts taking place in the Church seem to indicate that we have reached a pivotal crossroad.

As those who will inherit the consequences of these choices, young people are particularly called to be active in the world not in the future, but now.

Sarah Brannan
College Captain



SHROVE TUESDAY MAG Project Compassion Fundraiser

On Tuesday March 5, the Mercy Action Group put together a pancake stall and kick-started Project Compassion fundraising here at Mercy College. The cue for the pancakes stretched across the entire Netball courts and students and teachers alike, eagerly waited for their fresh pancakes, covering them with toppings of their choice.

Mercy Action Girls volunteered their lunchtime and served over 400 pancakes, raising well over \$200. We'd like to thank everyone who supported our stall, waiting patiently and accepting our pancakes, even though they weren't all pretty or all the same size. Your support really makes a difference.

Our College fundraising initiatives for Project Compassion will continue throughout Lent until the end of the term. Lives change when we all give 100%. This year the theme for Project Compassion is "100% Hope". Through giving Lent 100%, together we can change lives and give the world's poor hope for a better future.

Miss Gange and Brook A



YEAR 7 HISTORY

Three Year 7 History classes ventured into the Rocks on a glorious sunny Thursday. This is what they learnt and experienced.

On Thursday February 28, half of Year 7 went on an excursion to The Rocks, a place that we discovered held a lot of important history. In 1994 an excavation began that unearthed many old artifacts. Year 7 was split into their classes and received a tour guide.

The first activity that 7B did was sketching and trying to guess what different artifacts were and what they were used for. We then went to a different room and were given a variety of different dates and artifacts that we had to sort into chronological order. We all worked together in order to complete the task in just over 1 minute.

Finally we went outside and the guide gave us a tour of the Big Dig site which intrigued everyone. We were asked to consider whether The Rocks was a slum or not, based on the evidence unearthed. We headed down towards the water to eat our lunch and then met an indigenous lady who gave us one of the best information tours that I could ever ask for. Overall everyone had a good time.

-Anna K

The point of the excursion was to learn about the people who lived in the 'slum'. Being squished up in one room with your siblings was hard, as the average amount of children in a family was 8 to 10. We learned about how the aboriginals felt about the invasion of their land. We touched and looked at the artifacts and tools they used to help them live. We were taught how to live and eat from nature like the aborigines did.

Estelle C

The Rocks – was it a slum?

At The Big Dig we were given multiple pieces of evidence, some that pointed to the Rocks being a prosperous place and some showing the complete opposite. At first, it seemed that the Rocks was a roomy area, then it became more populated with shops, businesses and houses.

After a while the area was teeming with people, with all the houses crammed in together. There were newspaper articles and travel journals warning against The Rocks, claiming it was a disease ridden place that you should not go near. However, the artefacts (like clothing and household items) suggested that it was a much more affluent suburb then what the journalists and the government were claiming.

Eventually, when the plague came to Sydney, there were only three deaths in the Rocks but the government decided that it was unsafe. Later a car park was built over the top until it was turned into an archaeological site, where The Big Dig is located now. Archaeologists have so far dug up over 1000 artefacts, which help answer the question whether The Rocks was an amazing place or a bedraggled slum.

Victoria F 7B



INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARIVAL

WOMEN IN BLUE SHOW NO MERCY !

Words cannot explain the dominance demonstrated by the Mercy House swimmers at the 2019 Annual Swimming Carnival. With four Age Champions, seven records and an abundance of spirit, Mercy outswam their competitors by over 200 points.

Epping Aquatic Centre was the new venue after Lane Cove's outdoor 50m pool was deemed inoperable and it proved to be a lucky home for some, including the McAuley squad who deservedly won the House Cheers. The Jungle theme and an intriguing storyline rewarded the girls in green for their first win of the day.

However, in the pool was a different story as Mercy proved relentless across all strokes. Although the 200IM and 50m Backstroke events were held prior to the carnival, only one 'fun' participation race could occur due to the limited number of lanes available. Despite this, almost 400 students jumped at the opportunity to swim with friends and earn some valuable points for their House.

As was expected, freestyle and breaststroke drew the largest number of participants with over 120 students swimming in each of these events. It was great to witness so many students involved and being active. Special mention must go to Olivia W, Chloe M and Caitlin M who contributed over 70 points each for their respective House and won all their races. However, the Champion Swimmer for 2019 was Olivia W who broke 4 records and swam in all three winning relay races.

A big thank you to all students who swam, cheered, assisted staff and displayed College spirit throughout the day 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 dedication and to all staff for assisting in various duties in the tropical heat, it was greatly appreciated.

Finally, it was great to see so many parents at the pool, your presence and support did not go unnoticed, thank you.

Champion House: Mercy
Champion Swimmer: Olivia W
New Records

Olivia W – 13 years 200IM, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle and 50m Freestyle

Caitlin M – 200IM

Mercy Intermediate Relay Team – 4x50m Freestyle

Mercy Senior Relay Team – 4x50m Freestyle

	17+	Under 16	Under 15	Under 14	Under 13	Under 12
Age Champion	Lauren H	Genevieve O	Caitlin M	Chloe M	Olivia W	Olivia F
2 nd place	Brooke A	Isabella S	Sofia S	Molly M	Isabella F	Isabella M
3 rd place	Sarah K	Louise F	Olivia T	Jessica H Elisha Y	Isabelle W	Hannah H





Thursday Walking Club



Join Mrs Tailor and Mrs Oliver every Thursday at 1:30pm (weather permitting) for a social and fun walk departing from the main school gates!

Open to all students from Years 7 to 12. Girls bring their lunch and walk around the local streets for approximately 20 minutes, usually ending at Beauchamp Oval. Girls can wear sports shoes, but this isn't a requirement.

Parent permission is NOT required as it is included in the Year 7 Orientation paperwork. There is no cost for this wonderful activity!



THE 'MERCY COLLEGE' APP
AVAILABLE ON APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY

**UPDATE YOUR
NOTIFICATION SETTINGS**

OPEN THE APP > SELECT 'MORE' > SELECT 'SETTING' >
MARK THE CATEGORIES THAT APPLY

Dear Parents,

MCC 2019 Open Day – Thank You Volunteers

Thank you so much to the 90 parents who helped at the Open Day. Your offers to help just prior to the Open Day were overwhelming. Your kindness ensured prospective parents and students were able to see the lovely community at MCC in action.

I am very grateful that so many of you were able to give of your time, whether for 30 mins or 6 hours. It was a lovely sunny day and very very hot in the BBQ area – thank you for your dedication. I noted that volunteers were so happy to take on any task, even ones they were not rostered to and all worked together so well. It appeared everyone was tackling any job they noticed needed doing and that was so lovely to see.

I know the staff are always very grateful for the support you give to this day and I receive their thanks. However your presence (in such large numbers) means I have a lovely day meeting many of you and chatting with prospective parents about how wonderful I believe MCC is, so thank you so much for this opportunity.

Please feel free to call me at any time if you have any questions or would like to provide ideas or feedback (about the Open Day) or any other matters.

Phillipa Sobb
P&F President

perrysobb@gmail.com
0411 429 629

Day	Date	Time	Event	Details
Thursday	09/05	7.00am to 9.00am	Mothers' Day Breakfast	Complimentary Breakfast for Mums and MCC Daughters. Booking Details will follow.
Wednesday	05/06	6.00p m	P&F Meeting	All parents and carers invited and welcome to attend.
Wednesday	14/08	6.00p m	P&F Meeting	All parents and carers invited and welcome to attend.
Thursday	29/08	7.00am to 9.00am	Fathers' Day Breakfast	Complimentary Breakfast for Dads and MCC Daughters. Booking Details will follow.
Wednesday	25/09	3.10p m to 4.15p m	Year 12 Graduation Afternoon Tea	Afternoon Tea is served between the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony and the Year 12 Farewell Mass. Guests include Year 12 students and family. This is a catered event, however parents of Year 11 students are requested to volunteer to serve.
Wednesday	23/10	6.00p m	P&F AGM and Meeting	All parents and carers invited and welcome to attend. Elections: 2019 Committee.
Friday	15/11	6.00 To 8.00p m	Year 7 2020 Information Evening	Parents of Year 9 students requested to volunteer (BBQ cooking, Food and Drink Service). TryBooking link to volunteer will follow.

MATH SKILLS—YEARS 7—10

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a Mathematics Department, last semester, we initiated an ongoing revision programme via the Education Perfect platform. This programme will continue in 2019.

Each student in Years 7 -10 has an Education Perfect account that their classroom teacher will utilise as a source of introduction and reinforcement of topics learnt in class.

In addition to this use, students will be set ongoing revision tasks during the school term to help prepare for NAPLAN in Year 7 and 9 and STANDARDS Testing in Year 10 onwards. Revision will also assist them upcoming assessments and as a means of consistent and regular revision. It is set on past work and students will have previously covered the content.

We are trying to develop and encourage the skill of revising Mathematics in an on-going manner similar to training for a sports team or playing an instrument.

Education Perfect will be set three times a term; and students will be given ample time to complete (approximately 15 minutes a week would be needed). If students are struggling to find this time they are able to come along to the Maths Club on a Wednesday at lunchtime in A4, where a Mathematics teacher and senior Mercy students will be available to assist.

We are hoping this addition to your daughter's study routine will be beneficial and provide her with regular revision that complements her own study habits.

If you have any queries or concerns do not hesitate to contact your daughter's classroom teacher.

Kind regards,

Miss Elaine Agapiou

Mathematics Coordinator

Mrs Donna D'Silva

Learning Support



28 February 2019

To the School Principle/ Headmaster.

Dear Sir / Madam

Conditions of use – Student Opal Card

I write to request your assistance in promoting the importance of using the Student Opal Card correctly.

It is a condition of use that students tap on at the start and tap off at the end of each trip with their Student Opal Card. This is important to ensure accurate patronage data is recorded. This data is used to plan school special and regular route bus services and assists State Transit in ensuring adequate capacity is provided, so students can travel to and from school safely.

Current statistics indicate that many students have failed to tap on or off the Opal readers when travelling. If students do not tap on and off then the school bus services, it may appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

To assist with our future service planning can you please remind parents and students of this important condition of use so State Transit can continue to provide effective bus services in the future.

For more information and to apply for a School Opal card call 131500 or apply online at <https://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students>

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Moujalli'.

Tony Moujalli
Customer Operations Manager