



# The Mercy Voice

**Term 1 Issue 4**  
**11 March— 22 March**  
**2019**

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**Upcoming Events:**

**TERM 1**

**WEEK NINE**

**25 March—Year 12 French Excursion**  
**26 March—Year 9 Interfaith Excursion**  
**27 March — Italy/French Tour Information Night 6.00pm**  
**28 March—Year 9 History Excursion**

**WEEK TEN**

**2, 3 & 4 April St Pius X College & Mercy College Present**  
**GREAT EXPECTATIONS Performance starts at 7pm**  
**5 April — Year 12 Drama Excursion**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

We have been using our new classrooms on the Kirk Street campus since the beginning of the year with lots of positive comments from both the students and the teachers who are using the space. As part of our usual Tuesday Chapel Mass we asked Fr Jim to bless our new buildings and those who will use the space for learning. See the photos later in the newsletter.



I was delighted to have representatives from both OLD Primary School and St Pius X there to celebrate with us in having the new space and for its blessing.

**NAMING THE NEW BUILDING:**

You will be aware when you visit the main campus site that each building is named:

A Block named after Sister Mary Agneta, our first Principal.  
M Block for Sister Elizabeth McQuion, the first Sister of Mercy to arrive in Sydney.

C Block is called after the name of a house that Catherine McAuley lived in.

I am now looking for a name for our new building. At present we are temporarily calling it the Kirk Street campus after the adjacent street, but I'm looking for a name that is significant for our school community. I have spoken to the girls and opened up a competition with the criteria that the name has to relate to our Mercy charism, the history of the school or the history of the Sisters of Mercy.

I'll be sending all the students an email which will give them the information and include an Entry Form. You can be part of it as well, so if there is any parent who would like to offer a suggestion then please ask your daughter to put in an entry for you.

Here is a link to the [Entry Form](#)

**THE STUDENT VOICE:**

Our senior Student Leaders are working hard to engage the younger students and to keep them connected within our community. One initiative, which follows on from what the seniors started last year is an upgraded student newsletter called the Student Voice. This forum provides an opportunity for any student in the school to contribute news, poetry, stories, jokes or drawings. Well done Olivia R and Betsy W for the first addition.

I ask you to encourage your daughter to contribute so she can share her talent and creativity with us. Girls can send items to: [olivia.reynolds@dbbstu.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olivia.reynolds@dbbstu.catholic.edu.au).

## ENTER THE NAMING COMPETITION



**Kirk St Campus  
Naming Competition**

With renovations done, our newly improved Campus is in need of a new name. We want to hear your ideas and we are inviting YOU, our students, to find a name for our new space!

**Competition Guidelines**

The name of the building needs to relate to our foundress, Catherine McAuley, the Mercy Charism, our School history or the history of the Sisters of Mercy

You must submit a proposal as to why you have chosen that name and explain the link

You can use the following links for inspiration:

- Mercy International Association - <https://www.mercyworld.org/>
- Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney - <http://www.nsmc.org.au/>
- Mercy College Website - <https://www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au/about-us/our-history/>
- "In God Alone" Video - <https://www.mercyworld.org/film-in-god-alone/>

Remember our current buildings are named: Agneta, McQuoin and Coolock

Ideas Due: Tuesday 09.04.19 Week 11

\*Current building name significance:  
Agneta [A Block] - Our first Principal, Sr Mary Agneta  
McQuoin [M Block] - Sr Elizabeth McQuoin  
Coolock [C Block] - Coolock House in Dublin

\*\*Prize/s may be awarded to a student whose proposed name is used. Subject to unique submissions

### Competition entry form:

FULL NAME:

TUTOR GROUP:

RE TEACHER:

RE CLASS:

### Proposed Building name:

Explain why you chose this name in under 100 words: \*add another sheet if needed

Please hand in to THE FRONT OFFICE by Tues Week 11

## MOVING TOWARDS THE END OF TERM:

Who could believe we are at the end of Week 8 already? Perhaps as parents you can, as you see the strain on your daughters. There have been many students who have suffered an illness this term with a number of bugs going around and the stress has begun to build as the term moves towards its end and tests and assignments are due.

It's a time to remind your daughters about being organised and planning well. Procrastinating is something we all do, but using the diary and planning out when each task is due is essential so there is not that last minute panic.

Remember also that exercise and good eating habits will go a long way in keeping the stress levels low.

*Best wishes*

*Suzanne Kavanagh*

**Principal**



### Mercy Chapel Mass – Blessing of the Kirk Street Campus

This week our Chapel Mass was held in the new classrooms on the Kirk Street Campus. It was a wonderful celebration of the Eucharist which was attended by our fellow schools St Pius X College and Our Lady of Dolours Primary School. We as a Chatswood community came together to share in communion and celebrate the blessing of our new educational site by our Parish Priest Father Jim.

Ms Kavanagh addressed the congregation with moving words about how she hopes that these modern classrooms foster a love and passion for learning and that it was a space that could be shared by the whole community.

The first combined schools event that will be held on the new campus will be the Alpha for Youth program, a combined Mercy College and St Pius X initiative which will commence in Term 2.



### Caritas – Project Compassion House Fundraisers

**100% Hope – Lives change when we give 100%**

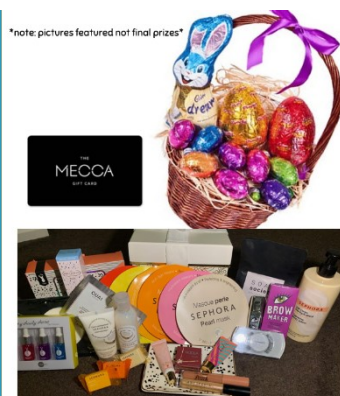
The Year 11 Student Leaders over the last couple of weeks have been organising a range of fundraisers to be led by each House to raise money for Caritas during the season of Lent. These fundraisers were promoted to the students at our College Assembly this week.

The Project Compassion House Fundraisers for 2019 are below:

**MERCY**  
Mercy this year will be doing 2 hampers/raffles!!!

- ★ Easter Egg Hamper  
Basket chock full of Easter goodies, ranging from small to large eggs!
- ★ Beauty Hamper  
Beauty products and a gift card. Hamper worth = Over \$300!

**1X RAFFLE TICKET FOR \$1**  
**5X RAFFLE TICKETS FOR \$2**  
**10 X RAFFLE TICKETS FOR \$5**  
RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN ON FINAL DAY OF FUNDRAISING



**COOLOCK**  
**WHAT:** Sausage Sizzle  
**WHERE:** Undercroft  
**WHEN:** Thursday 21st March  
**COST:** \$2



**MCAULEY**  
**BAKE SALE!!!**  
**WHEN:** Wednesday 27th March  
Recess and Lunch (Week 9)  
**HOW MUCH:** 50c – \$2

**ZOOPER DOOPERS SALE!!!**  
**WHEN:** Friday April 5  
Lunch (Week 10)  
**HOW MUCH:** 50c



**STORMANSTON**  
**MOVIE LUNCH !!**  
**WHERE:** Flex  
**WHEN:** Thursday 28 and Friday 29 March at lunch time  
**MOVIE:** 10 Things I Hate About You  
(Rated PG)  
**COST:** \$2.00 for the movie or \$4.00 for the movie, drink and chips !!



### Mercy & St Pius OLD Youth Mass - Sunday 24 March 5:30pm

The next Mercy & St Pius Youth Mass will be held this Sunday evening at OLD Church at 5:30pm.

The details are:

Date: Sunday 24 March

Mass: Youth Mass

Time: 5:30pm

BBQ and Social Activities: 6:30 – 8:00pm



If you would like to be involved in the music ministries you will need to arrive at 4:30pm. All other ministries such as reader, offertory procession, Eucharistic Minister etc you will need to arrive at 5:00pm.

Further details can be found in the flyer on the following page.

**Ms Gabie Stojanovski**  
**Director of Mission & Religious Education**



# Mercy College & St Pius X College YOUTH MASS



Chatswood Catholic Parish's  
Sunday Night 5.30pm Youth  
Mass with Fr Jim.

**Sunday 24 March**



**Come and show your school spirit!**

**St Pius and Mercy students will be:**

**Welcoming**

**Ministers of the Word**

**Ministers of Communion**

**Altar servers**

**Music ministers (arrive at 3.30pm)**

**Cooking a BBQ**

**And telling the parish about the good things your College does.**



**94 Archer St Chatswood**

**(parking in St Pius grounds via Kirk St)**

***See Miss Gange to find out more.***

**This is a Chatswood Catholic Parish event promoted  
by Mercy College and St Pius X College**

## **SAM FIGG'S MANE SACRIFICICE WITH HANNAH H—Year 7**

After three years of growing his hair, Australian Rugby Sevens star and all round legend Sam Figg chopped his long locks off on Saturday (9<sup>th</sup> March) to raise money for Variety Hair with Heart.

Sam smashed his \$1,500 target, raising over \$3,500 for kids in need.

Sam's donated hair will be made into a specialised wig for someone who has lost their hair due to a medical condition such as alopecia.

Wig recipient Hannah H from Year 7 was on hand to offer Sam some moral support.



Hannah H (Year 7) with Sam

### YEAR 7 NEWS

#### **Balance**

I have noticed in recent weeks many of the girls are feeling a little overwhelmed by all of the new routines involved with starting high school. I have put out an email to all Year 7 teachers that we are aware that they have only been at Mercy for a few weeks, that they have all come from different backgrounds and so we understand that the assessment results will vary due to this.

I have asked the teachers to emphasise to the girls that we expect them to do their best but that our main focus this term is working on their organisation and developing new routines – the assessments are just a snap shot of their current understanding. If you could reiterate a similar message at home that would help.

Also, please remind your daughter that there are various clubs that can help support her organisation as well as completion of tasks. I have emailed all of Year 7 these and I have copied it in below for you to look at with your daughter.

### YEAR 7 2019 – Co-curricular Activities

Day	Activity	Time	Venue
Tuesdays	Student Yoga	Lunch	Flexible Learning Space
	Mercy Action Group (MAG) Meeting	Lunch	C28
Wednesdays	Study Club	8.00-8.40am	A7
	Science Club (Day 8)	Lunch	AS1
	Maths Club	Lunch	A4
Thursdays	Walking Club	Lunch	Beauchamp Park
	Homework Club	3.10-4.30pm	Library
Fridays	Boot Camp	8-8.30am	Netball Court/Flex
	Sewing Club	Lunch	C30
	Social Technology Club	Lunch	Library

NB: Other activities may arise as the year progresses

### **STUDY SKILLS**

This week Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ([www.enhanced-learning.net](http://www.enhanced-learning.net)) ran a study skills evening with Year 7 parents and students. The evening helped families assess what changes could be made to help students work towards achieving their personal best in an efficient and effective way.

Students examined their home study environment, the way they organise and manage their resources, how to work effectively at home and deal with distractions, how to manage the workload in high school and the steps to studying in high school: making study notes, learning the notes by testing yourself and doing as much practise as possible.

Parents are encouraged to review the handout from the session with students and discuss the main areas identified where changes could be made. Parents can also find extra study skills tips on the following website: <http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/>.

**Ms Tracey Stancliffe**  
***Year 7 Coordinator***





St Pius X College & Mercy Catholic College Present

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

by Charles Dickens in a new adaptation  
by Nick Ormerod & Declan Donnellan

Sarto Centre  
April 2-4 @ 7pm

Tickets Adults \$25 Student \$20 Family \$60 [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

### SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRACTICE HIKE

This year, for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice hike, 29 Year 10 students went to Katoomba and hiked through the Blue Mountains National Park. The highlight was climbing Mt Solitary and celebrating our teamwork.

Our journey began on Wednesday March 6, when we all met at Katoomba Station. After doing a quick sound off, we walked to the campsite at Katoomba Falls Tourist Park. It took a while to set up our tents, due to the hard ground and high winds. We paused for an Ash Wednesday prayer and Welcome to Country, led by our peers.

By midday we were ready to leave for our first hike, stopping for lunch at a lookout overlooking the Jamison Valley and Scenic Skyway. We walked to the top of Katoomba Falls and then past the bottom, via the steep Furber steps, then down and along the Federal Pass.

Along the way, we enjoyed looking at the scenery, enjoying a light rain shower and having a few mini history lessons about the famous tourist area. This then led us on to the Dardanelles Pass and then finally onto the hardest part of the day - The Giant Stairway. That was certainly the correct name as it was 800 steep stairs up to the Three Sisters. The stairs were tough and challenging, but we encouraged each other along the way and had occasional breaks every now and then to rest and regain our energy.



We finally reached the top, taking photos and congratulating each other for climbing such steep steps. After this we walked back to camp via the popular, but rainy, Echo Point. We made it back to camp at around 5:30pm where we showered, got ready for dinner and played some organised trivia in teams, which the teacher's team won. We went on a night walk back to the lookout, to see the Three Sisters lit up. By this time, the sky was dark and we could see hundreds of stars, that seemed to be concentrated in a stripe down the middle of the sky. Some of us even recognised certain constellations and found our star signs amongst the other stars. We were back in our tents by 10pm, ready for the big day coming.



On Day 2 we woke up at 6:30 and by 8:00, we were on our way for the second hike. We walked 6.7km from the campsite along a fire trail then down the Golden Stairs and along the Federal Pass to the Ruined Castle, where we had morning tea.

We survived the tough downhill and some more ups and down and reached Mount Solitary at around 12pm. We took an hour to eat our lunch and do a bit of rock climbing to see the views higher up. The view of the mountains and valleys surrounding us were amazing and was definitely worth the long walk.

After resting for an hour and taking plenty of photos, we began to walk back to the campsite, via the landslide and Scenic World. We had a rest watching people going up and down the steepest railway in the world, then found ourselves again at some more stairs; however, they were not as steep and as long as the staircase the day before.



We were back at the campsite by 5:00pm, ready for a shower, dinner and rest and rest. We met at 7.30 to plan the next day and did some yoga as a group to stretch our sore muscles from the 21 km which we walked that day. We all thought of/invented a yoga move and spent an hour sharing these moves in the drizzly darkness. After our long day of walking, we were in bed by 10:00 pm in order to get up early for a sunrise walk the following day.



Duke of Edinburgh  
Continued.....



On Day 3 we all woke up at 6:00 am and walked to the Three Sisters to look at the view one last time before leaving. We were all amazed at how beautiful and misty the mountains were and stayed there for about half an hour before going back along The Prince Henry Cliff Walk.

Once we returned to the campsite, we ate breakfast and packed up all our things ready to walk back to the station. However, before leaving the campsite, we did an obstacle course using the playground equipment nearby. We were all very tired, but we all encouraged our teammates to win the challenge.

Soon after, we were all ready to walk to the station to try to catch the 11:14 train back to Sydney. We finally got on the train back home and all rested over the weekend to go back to school on Monday.

By Karisma W and Sophie T

We were so proud of the girls and everything they achieved. Walking over 35km in all kinds of mountain weather was quite a feat, especially as a few weren't feeling 100%.

They planned all the hikes and activities and despite being our largest group ever, walked so well and had great teamwork. It was fitting that we finished our hike on International Women's Day, because these girls all showed what we can achieve when we support each other and persevere.

It was a pleasure to hike with you (even when you were all tired and grumpy on the last morning!) Special thanks to Mr Robertson and Ms Smith for accompanying us.

***Ms Dorey, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator***



### MERCY ACTION DAY

On the 12th of March, 9 students from Years 10-11, along with Miss Gange, were given the opportunity to attend the Mercy 6 Senior Leaders day.

The Mercy 6 day occurs once a year where senior students from the Mercy Action Group of the Mercy schools OLMC Parramatta, Monte North Sydney, Catherine McAuley Westmead, Emmaus Kemps Creek, OLMC Burraneer and Mercy Chatswood, come together to explore issues that are happening in today's society and what we can do and are already doing, to help.

At 8 o'clock we left Mercy and took a minibus up to OLMC in Parramatta, where, on arrival, went into their chapel for a brief discussion about the day and for the lighting of each of our school candles.

After that, we went into their school hall for some ice breaker activities which included a round of people bingo and a trivia about our Mercy Schools. I know I safely speak on behalf of everyone when I say that we all had an enormous amount of fun. We then had a short break for recess before having a talk from our keynote speaker.

Madeline Estherby, spoke to us about the foundation she volunteered at and now works with - "The Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation" It was an inspirational talk as it gave us perspective and an in-depth idea as to how we are all able to make a difference and start a worthy cause, as long as we know that we have to be persistent and can't let the fear of failure stand in our way.

We then started an activity where we focused on one person, or a group of people (one was Mother Teresa) and look at what they've done, and any problems they would have encountered. After a short break for lunch we then continued that activity, but this time had a look at what we could do, and anything that we believe is standing in our way and how to overcome these challenges.

We also had a look at quotes and why we thought they were important and how they can impact on our lives. Altogether, it was a very insightful day which was an eye-opener to all the girls who attended it. The most powerful part of the day was sharing ideas with other people our age, who are inspired to make a difference.

To see how their school answers the call to do more and to see how our school is called to Mercy Charism. I encourage any girl who is interested in learning more and attending a conference like this, to join Mercy Action Group on Tuesdays.

**Betsy W (Year 11 Mercy Action Group Participant)**



### YEAR 9 FRENCH—BOULES

On Tuesday 12th of March, the Year 9 French class went to Milsons Point to learn about the game of Pétanque. When we arrived we met Gary, our instructor who taught us lots of skills used in boules and plenty of french vocabulary!

At the beginning, we tried throwing the boules which was quite unsuccessful. We were taught the rule, "Un boule devant c'est un boule d'argent", which translates to "A boule in front is a winning boule", meaning it was better to have the ball land in front of the hoop rather than behind it.



We slowly learned how to use the proper technique and had lots of fun trying to get the boules into the hoops and tyres which were an easier alternative. Splitting into two groups of four teams, we played a few rounds of boules, which we learnt was not as easy as it looks. We also learnt lots of phrases such as "bonne chance!" - good luck, "formidable" - fantastic and "il fait chaud" - it is hot, which it was!

Our teacher, Mr. Gary Hosie, is a member of the Boules Artistes Petanque Club ([www.boulesartistes.org.au/](http://www.boulesartistes.org.au/)), who are committed to increasing the amount of players in NSW, improving playing standards and promoting a high level of sportsmanship. They meet every 4th Saturday and anyone is welcome to join and play. Their main playing grounds are at Tempe, but they have expanded to Redfern, Kirribilli/Milsons Point, South Coogee and Birchgrove.

We had an amazing time and would love to play again. Thanks to Gary on behalf of Year 9!

Camryn C

## 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



### P&F NEWS

Sixty parents and MCC staff attended the 2019 P&F Cocktail Party last week at the Chatswood Golf Club.

It was a beautiful evening and watching the sunset over the course and Lane Cove National Park was a lovely way to start the weekend.

It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new ones.



The next P&F events are;

Thursday 09/05/2019 7.00am Mothers' Day Breakfast – Invitation via TryBooking link will be forwarded next month

Wednesday 05/06/2019 6.00pm P&F Meeting – all invited and welcome to attend

If you would like to assist organising a Term 2, mid-week, social gathering for parents in your daughter's Year group, I would be grateful if you could let me know.

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

Thank you.

Phillipa Sobb  
P&F President

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