



# The Mercy Voice

**Term 1 Issue 5**  
**27 March— 5 April**  
**2019**

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***Upcoming Events:***

**TERM 1**

**WEEK ELEVEN**

**9 April—Easter Liturgy**  
**10 April—Year 11 Ancient History Excursion**  
**10-12 April—Year 12 Retreat**  
**12 April—Last Day of Term 1**

**TERM 2**

**WEEK ONE**

**Monday 29 April—Term 2 Commences**  
**2-3 May—Year 11 Geography Excursion**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

In the past two weeks I have been seeking the girls' opinions on two matters.

**A NAME FOR THE NEW CAMPUS:**

We are running a competition on what to call our new block of classrooms now that everyone has settled in. I am looking for a name that reflects the College's history or the history of the Sisters of Mercy. I sent all the girls an email with a nomination form, so encourage your daughter to be part of this historic event.



**SURVEY REGARDING THE COLLEGE UNIFORM:**

Discussion began last year at the senior Student Leaders' meetings about the College uniform, firstly about the comfort factor and also whether there could be a senior uniform to distinguish them from the juniors.

I am seeking the opinion of all the community (students, staff and parents) as the first step in a consultation process on whether it is necessary to change the uniform. If the consensus is for change, then any change is a long process, as suppliers have a large stock of the current uniforms.

All the students and staff have been sent a survey and I am seeking the opinion of you as a parent. The survey can be found at this link.

[Student uniform survey](#)

All parents will also receive an email from me with the link.

**COMBINED SPX AND MCC PLAY:**

I was fortunate enough to watch the combined SPX and MCC play last night, *Great Expectations*. Such an exceptional wealth of talent was on display with moving performances from all the students from both Colleges. It was also wonderful to see what collaboration between the two Drama departments can produce.

Congratulations to all involved.

**EASTER IS COMING:**

I was chatting to some Year 7 girls about the holidays coming up and one of them asked me why Easter this year was during the school holidays and not like it was last year before the holidays. It made me think just how closely linked our Christian history is to Jewish history, as Easter relates to the Passover.

## Message from Principal

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This all got confusing until Emperor Constantine in AD 325 ruled that all churches would celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring Equinox.

Now that I had established when, with the girls, all the questions arose about why it is called Easter and what has it got to do with eggs. A good discussion arose until we got to the true meaning of Easter for us and the Christian significance of Christ's resurrection; that this is a time for us as Catholics to celebrate and rejoice in the resurrection or rising of Christ to heaven and reflect upon its meaning for us.

So why not make a special effort this Easter season to be involved with all the celebrations in your local parish.



Wishing all our families a very blessed Easter and a safe and happy holiday.

*Best wishes*

*Suzanne Kavanagh*

**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

- College kilt (length is to be 5cm below the knee), blouse, jumper, blazer, pale grey tights/stockings.

*Please note: kilts are not to be rolled at the waist and torn tights/stockings are not acceptable.*

- 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.
- College blazer is to be worn as the outer garment in Term 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 and tied back if it touches the shoulders.

The following jewellery items may be worn:

- A watch
- Earrings are only to be one pair of small plain studs or sleepers (gold or silver) in the lower lobe.
- All other facial piercing is prohibited (including tongue rings).
- Plastic studs are not to be worn.
- 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, rings, bracelets are not to be worn.
- Chewing gum is prohibited.
- The Year 12 jersey is not to be worn to and from school.

Please ensure that 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 well, to show pride in their appearance and pride in being ambassadors of the College.

Thank you for your ongoing support

**Elizabeth Kayrooz**  
**Assistant Principal**



### CARITAS - Give Lent 100%

***"What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)***

The Project Compassion House fundraisers have been a huge success with students supporting each fundraiser with great generosity. So far we have had Coolock's Sausage Sizzle, McAuley's Bake Sale, Stormanston's Movie Lunch and Mercy House has been busy selling tickets for the Easter Raffle.

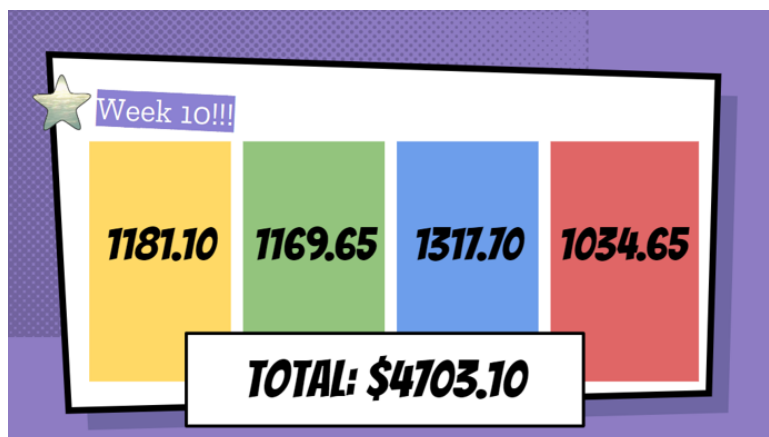




## Message from Director of Mission and Religious Education

I have been very impressed at the leadership skills demonstrated by the Year 11 House Captains and Leaders, their initiative and organisation skills have led to highly successful fundraising activities. Their enthusiasm and encouragement has motivated students to be proactive in almsgiving during Lent through their participation and support for each of the activities. Our Project Compassion fundraisers have been a powerful experience of community building while also advocating for the work of Caritas in assisting the world's poorest communities.

A current tally of the fundraising is below



### Mercy & St Pius Youth Mass – Sunday 24 March

The monthly Mercy and St Pius X Youth Mass continues to be a great opportunity to build inclusive communities of faith within our Colleges. The recent Youth Mass was well attended and has seen our students be actively involved in the ministries of the Mass, such as readers of the Word, Eucharistic ministers and involvement in the Youth Choir.

The evening concluded with a BBQ and fun social activities for the students and parishioners. Involvement in the Youth Mass has allowed our students to grow in their faith journey, show leadership in their faith community and develop great friendships with their peers. I encourage all students to come along to the next Youth Mass which will be held in **Term 2 on Sunday 26 May.**



### Chapel Mass – Blessing of Alpha Students

On Tuesday morning Fr. John celebrated our fortnightly Chapel Mass which was prepared and led by the students from Mercy and St Pius X College who will be participating in the Alpha for Youth Program that will be commencing in Term 2.

Fr John prayed a blessing for the students that they may be enriched in their faith and called to discipleship through their involvement in the program. The congregation also prayed that the Holy Spirit may open their hearts and minds to Jesus' message and that we as a community may support the Alpha participants on the journey of exploring their faith.



### Year 7 RE Tours of Our Lady of Dolours Church

Over the past 2 weeks Year 7 RE classes with their RE teacher, have had the opportunity to participate in a tour of OLD Church led by Youth Minister Mr Adrian Brannan.

The purpose of the tours has been to familiarise Year 7 students with the church and create a sense of belonging so that they feel as comfortable in the Church as they do in any other building in the school.

During the orientation of the Church students were given the opportunity to stand at the Altar where the priest celebrates Mass, visit the sacristy, see the Sacred Altar Vessels, hold the Gospel used by Pope Benedict at World Youth Day 2008 and pray in the Mary Chapel.

I would like to thank Mr Adrian Brannan for leading the tours and Fr Jim for welcoming our Year 7 students in the Church.



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



### **RESOURCE CENTRE—HSC STUDY LAB**

#### **Free Access to an Online Study Tool for Preliminary and HSC Business Studies and Science Students**

HSC Study Lab is an online study, exam preparation and revision tool for students in Years 11 and 12. Access to this resource is usually by paid subscription; however, any student who is a member of their public library now has free access to the courses.

These courses cover the following subjects:

- Preliminary Business Studies
- Preliminary Biology
- Preliminary Chemistry
- Preliminary Physics
- HSC Biology
- HSC Chemistry
- HSC Physics

The HSC Study Lab courses have been developed by Macquarie University and are based on their respective NSW syllabuses. They cover all syllabus dot points and inquiry questions. All firsthand investigations are also covered through experiment videos or simulations.

Students will have access to lessons, quizzes, videos and interactive resources.

To access these resources, go to <https://hscstudylab.com.au/library-members> and register by completing the online form using your public library card details.

#### **State Library of NSW Online Databases**

It is also strongly recommended that students in Years 11 and 12 become members of the State Library of NSW. Membership is free and provides students with access to the Library's resources including their online academic databases and ebooks.

In addition to this, students can visit the State Library of NSW and can use most of the Library's collections, request books from other libraries, print and photocopy, use the Library's computers and book study rooms.

This is particularly beneficial for students undertaking subjects which require them to undertake major research projects.

To become a member of the State Library of NSW, go to <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections-get-library-card/sign-library-card> .

Any student who has questions or would like assistance with searching for information using the State Library's databases, is welcome to come and see me.

**Ms Siobhan Betts**  
***Teacher Librarian***



### **MATHEMATICS TERM 1**

The Mathematics Department has been busy developing and moulding our future Mathematicians!

Girls have been busy doing activities and tasks showcasing their knowledge and what they have learnt in Mathematics this term.

Year 8 have handed in their first assessment task which explored the concept of Pythagoras' Theorem and its application and prevalence in the real world. Years 11 and 12 Extension 1 have an opportunity to showcase their ability to explain and share their understanding on concepts taught by producing and handing in a 5 minute video explaining a concept through a question of their choice. Other Year levels completed tests. Each Year group will have an opportunity to complete an investigation/research task throughout the year- so watch this space!

### **We celebrated PI Day in style on the 14th March 2019.**

There were two activities being run on the day; 'How Many Digits of Pi Can You Recite?' and 'Write a Story Using The First 20 Digits of Pi'.

The competition was fierce for 'How Many Digits of Pi Can You Recite?'.



**Jana D of Year 11 is our 2019 winner, able to recite an impressive 106 digits of Pi.**

When asked how she was able to remember so many, Jana said that she remember little stories to help her recall groups of numbers so that she was learning a smaller quantity of actual pieces of information.



**Our runner up was Victoria F who remembered 75 digits of Pi.**

All participants are to be congratulated on their efforts to remember many many digits of Pi.

Pi is a unique number that has no pattern or recurrence in its digits, making it a challenge to remember many of them!

We had a small number of entries for the 'Write a Story Using The First 20 Digits of Pi' activity. The eventual winner was Charlotte W who had two fantastic entries. The winning entry was:

'Wow. I took a plate expecting no shocks. Watch the pasta bubbling magically. Cooking spaghetti, how it can suddenly grow.'

I thank all the girls for their participation and look forward to our next Pi Day and the challenges that await!

### YEAR 8 INQUISITIVE MINDS INCURSION

Year 8 participated in a Mathematics Incursion called 'Problems, Patterns, Pictures and Puzzles' Workshop run by Inquisitive Minds on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The workshop is aligned with the concept of Working Mathematically in Stage 4 and was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in hands-on group work using their Mathematical skills and knowledge.

Feedback from the girls included:

"It is more exciting than you may think!"

"I learnt there are several different ways to work out a question."

"It is a good practice to re-read the question to get a better understanding."

"That once you take the time to think about the different ways to solve a problem it is not that hard."

"I liked being able to solve fun problems with prizes (of chocolate?)"

"I would tell other girls that it's very fun and that before you go, definitely have an open mind."



**Ms E Agapiou**  
**Mathematics Coordinator**



### 2019 RUGBY CHAMPIONS

As a teacher, there are many moments when you feel a sense of pride and the NSW Schoolgirls Rugby 7s Finals on Monday 25 March was one such moment for me.

The Junior and Senior teams won their semi-finals and then both teams convincingly outplayed their opponents in the Grand Final.

The Juniors were undefeated throughout the season and managed to keep St Scholastic College scoreless in the Grand Final with a 30 to nil victory. In the Juniors, Ella T was named 'Best and Fairest' for the whole season which was voted for by the referees.

In the Senior Division 2 Competition, Mercy played Barker College and these young women were also very dominant, winning 31-5 in an exciting counter. It was such a great atmosphere during the finals and it was so pleasing to see all players encouraging and supporting one another.

All players should be congratulated for their toughness, spirit and skill displayed throughout the season. Rugby is a demanding sport and these students should be very proud of their achievements. Thank you to all parents who were involved for your support and assistance, it was greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing everyone again in Term 4 for the next competition.



**Mr Mark Cuttler**  
**PDHPE Coordinator**



### PUBLIC SPEAKING

In Term One, we participate in the fast and furious CSDA Public Speaking Competition consisting of just three rounds. Teachers spent the early part of the term listening to students' speeches to determine the two students from each Year who will represent us in this highly competitive competition.

The topics this year included: *I've got a little list, ties, the internet is ending in an hour, I'm not making this up, you know!* and *the sandpit*.

The first round of Public Speaking was held at Marist Eastwood on March 8 with ten students representing Mercy College.

In Year 7, Isabella M and Soufia S, Year 8, Anneliese J and Martha W, Year 9, Isabella H and Sofia S, Year 11, Betsy W, Isabella S and Hannah M, Year 12, Alessia I. We were so very impressed with the quality of speeches that we felt confident of success.

However, the students faced fierce competition in the first round with only three students making it to the next round. The Zone Finals were held at Oakhill College on March 15. Anneliese J, Isabella H, Sofia S are very fine speakers but were, unfortunately, knocked out in this round.

We would like to congratulate the students who all spoke with exceptional skill this year. We can honestly say, having adjudicated at the first two rounds, that our students were as effective and as interesting as those who made it to the final.

**Ms Brandwood, Ms James and Mrs Morgan**



**Isabella H & Sofia S  
of Year 9 at the Zone Final**

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### YEAR 7 RELIGION BELONGING UNIT

A part of the Year 7 Religion Belonging Unit we have been studying is what it's like to belong to our school, Parish and wider Catholic Community. One of their tasks was to create an origami 'Survival Kit' with encouraging words, quotes and bible verses, and give it to a friend in their class to help them through the ups and downs of Year 7.

Most made lidded boxes with many messages inside, while some made chatterboxes or cranes etc. Messages included 'Sleep well', 'Look on the bright side', scriptures like Romans 8:28 and "Don't cross the Seniors bridge or the Seniors will yell at you."

They enjoyed it so much and created such beautiful kits that we will do it later in the year to give to next year's new Year 7s.

**Ms Dorey, Ms Su and Ms Battaile and our lovely Year 7 RE classes.**



### **YEAR 12 BIOLOGY EXCURSION TO THE MUSEUM OF HUMAN DISEASE, UNSW**

Year 12 students have been studying infectious and non-infectious diseases in the new Biology course. Part of this new syllabus, requires students to undertake a depth study. Students travelled to the Museum of Human Disease at the University of New South Wales on Monday 11th March.

Students listened to lectures about how medical scientists work, epidemiology, infectious and non-infectious diseases. They then examined donated human specimens of diseased organs and tissues. They also collected information about cancer to undertake their depth study.

Students are to be congratulated for their maturity in undertaking a confronting experience, their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour on this excursion.



**Mrs Smeulders and Ms Westwood**

***Science Teacher and Science Coordinator***



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

Year 11 students have been learning about ecosystems and sampling techniques to determine the distribution and abundance of organisms.

For their first assessment task they were required to undertake a depth study. Students travelled to North Narrabeen Rock Platform on Monday 18<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 modified to benefit marine life?

Students are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour on this excursion despite the rainy weather. Special thanks to Mr Marshall who accompanied students on this worthwhile experience.

**Mrs Smeulders**  
**Science Teacher**





### WORLD WAR 1 INCURSION

Last Thursday 28 March, Year 9 students were able to experience the realities of trench life for World War I soldiers.

Mercy scholars were privileged to have Shane Blackman from WW1 Living History Exhibition visit us to bring a human face to the study of war, by telling the stories from the perspective of the troops on the ground.

Students were able to experience replica and authentic sources up close including a full size trench cross section, soldiers' uniforms, weapons, tools, a webbing kit and even replica rats and pigeons.

As part of the day, through a range of hands on activities, students gained insights on what the soldiers ate and drank in the trenches and even designed their own trenches in groups using playdough. They also completed a research task on significant battles that Australians took part in and analysed sources (enlistment posters) from WW1.

Students thoroughly enjoyed and engaged with the interactive nature of the day and it was a wonderful immersive experience for all.

**Mrs Selby, Mrs O'Halloran, Ms Dorey and Ms Thorpe  
(Year 9 History team)**



### RUA EXCURSION

On Tuesday, 26 March, Mrs Selby's 9B Religion class had the opportunity to attend the Respect, Understanding and Acceptance Day (RUA) at the Sydney Jewish Museum, Darlinghurst.

This event included other Year 9 students from Stella Maris Manly, Masada College, Granville Boys High School and Auburn Girls High School.

The purpose of the day was to encourage peace and unity between different races, cultures and religions through interfaith dialogue between a diverse range of schools.



Students participated in several activities and discussions, recognising different beliefs and cultures, and discussing ways to promote respect, understanding and acceptance of diversity in our world, including how to counter racism as a young individual.

Meeting new people and getting to know them was both very exciting and daunting; it was a little awkward at the beginning, but over the course of the day, we warmed up to each other and formed new friendships we never expected to have. Together, we all gained many new ideas about different religions, exploring how we should include others with different religions, beliefs and opinions.

As representatives of Mercy, the RUA excursion was a very inspiring and memorable experience that helped us learn and discover new ways of thinking. We were able to share our information and religious traditions with the other schools that participated as well.

Overall, we all had fun and enjoyed taking part in this event.

By Jewel Y and Michella K



## 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

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# Connect @ the Library

## SPIDER-MAN Into the Spider-verse Movie and Marvel quiz

Free

Bookings  
essential

**TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2019**  
**6–8.30pm**

Snacks provided! Prizes to be won!

High school students, 12+ yrs only.  
(Children under 12 yrs not admitted.  
No parents allowed either!!!!)

**Bookings open Mon 8 Apr**  
at [willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library](http://willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library)



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