



The Mercy Voice

Term 4 Issue 2
28 October — 8 November
2019

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Upcoming Events:

WEEK FIVE

11-12 Nov — Year 9 Camp
11-15 Nov—Year 10 Exams
15 Nov—Year 7 2020
Information Evening & BBQ
6-8pm

WEEK SIX

18-22 Nov — Year 9 Exams

Dear Parents and Carers,

PARENT PORTAL COMING FOR MERCY PARENTS:

As you will be well aware for a number of years we have been trying to make communication with families easier for you. We launched the College App this year and next year we will have a Parent Portal open for you through a new administration system called Compass.



Compass will streamline many school operations such as attendance, reporting and communication. From early in Term 1 2020 you will receive details about the Parent Portal and App which will enable you to access information online about your daughter, anytime, anywhere, from any modern web-enabled device.

Initially you will be able to:

- ✓ view attendance information
- ✓ add a note for unexplained absences
- ✓ update your contact details
- ✓ receive communications from us
- ✓ view the school calendar
- ✓ access assessment tasks and schedules
- ✓ access academic reports

More functionality will become available as we utilise more of the Compass modules and we will keep you updated as this happens.

NEW STUDENT LEADERS:

It gives me great pleasure to announce our new House Captains and Portfolio Prefects for 2020.

Portfolio Prefects

Environment: Kiya Humphrey

Creative Arts: Stephanie Loker

Liturgy: Anastasia Muscolino

Learning: Genevieve O'Brien

Mercy Action:

Sophie Satnarine

House Captains

Coolock: Sofia Majer

McAuley: Hannah Ryan

Mercy: Angelique Lowick

Stormanston: Alyssa Rimac



COLLEGE'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2022

The College community has achieved much over the last three years, which was validated when we had our School Review in Term 2. The panel of experts identified that we had reached the goals that we had set ourselves in the last Strategic Plan.

Schools are dynamic institutions, and as such Mercy will be striving to move forward with a new Strategic Plan for the next three years. I share with you below the goals that our staff will be working towards:

Pastoral Care:

To enhance student wellbeing through a holistic approach connecting pastoral care and learning.

Mission:

To enhance the personal and spiritual growth of students and encourage increased engagement in the life and mission of the Church.

Teaching and Learning:

To enhance student engagement in learning, continuing to build a community of critical and creative thinkers.

VOLUNTEERS COCKTAIL PARTY:

At this time of year it's time to recognise and thank all the parents, carers, grandparents and friends who have helped our community through the year. You would have received by now an invitation to our annual Volunteers Cocktail Party on the 26 November at 6pm. I look forward to seeing many of you on that evening.

Best wishes



Principal

BALANCING CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDY

When the RISE wellbeing program first started emphasis was balanced on balancing movement with the learning. Teenage girls are renowned for giving up sport at around 15 years of age. At Mercy we encourage students to continue their sport, whether it is an individual activity or a team activity. The activities help with building positive relationships, supporting each other, decision making, experiencing personal and team wins, as well as loss and the need to work harder.

At Mercy we have the Fun Friday Dance, the Walking Club, the Maths Club, the Homework Club, the Dance and all the MCC Sports. All these activities are wonderful opportunities for your daughter to engage with others and have fun. The Creative Arts night showcased some of these wonderful activities.

Research from Deakin University (2011) states *"Wellbeing and resilience are vital to developing efficient problem solving skills, building and maintaining interpersonal relationships and realistic goal setting, all of which greatly enhance an individual's ability to perform and contribute meaningfully in daily life. Good health is about more than just the absence of sickness. Focusing on wellbeing and building resiliency is important in establishing a holistic approach to health, addressing both physical and psychological states. The World Health Organisation defines wellbeing as "the state in which an individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to his or her own community". Wellbeing involves having positive self-image and esteem."*

Resilience, which is directly related to wellbeing, is about having the ability to cope with and adapt to new situations. Having a sense of resilience and positive wellbeing enables a person to approach other people and situations with confidence and optimism, which is especially important for young people given the enormous changes that occur with the transition into adolescence and adulthood.

In 2018 Caela D who is now going into Year 12 started a Club with like-minded students, who love technology. It was a wonderful initiative by Caela and her friends. The club is called the Social Technology Club, they meet in the library every Friday at lunch time . Here is an article by Caela.

In the Social Technology Club, we learn to combine the entertainment of the digital world with our educational needs, by co-operation, co-ordination and openness. We review the theories regarding the gaming industry and we learn about the concept of games that members of our club bring up. To put our subject skills to the test, all members participate in a friendly game of Dungeons and Dragons, an ancient role-playing board game that implements a lot of realistic choices that could pose as a possibility in our modern world. Though there are a minimal amount of members within our club, we are hoping to spread the importance of enjoying one's state of mind when studying or learning.



YEAR 12 2020

This week on Wednesday, Year 12 took part in the GP's in Schools program. We were fortunate enough to have eight women General Practitioners visit Mercy and talk to the students in their friendships groups.

The GP's spoke to the students about women's health. Some of the topics they spoke about were; the Medicare card, having your own GP, anxiety, depression, stress management, sexual health and alcohol. The Year 12 students were absolutely wonderful and all the GP's were praising them on their beautiful, kind nature and inquisitiveness.

If your daughter is in Year 12 please talk to her about the information that was discussed and if you having other questions please feel free to contact me.

Mrs G McDermott
Director of Student Wellbeing

Mercy Girls Inspire

The Australia Scout Medallion—Brianna M Year 9

On 22 September Brianna was presented with the Australian Scout Medallion in a presentation attended by Scouts, family and friends from across New South Wales.

Brianna is a member of the 2nd St Ives Scout Group. The Award Brianna achieved requires leadership, organisation, drive, determination, resilience and a high level of practical Scouting knowledge.

Brianna was recognised by the Scouts community as a leader, now and in the future.

Congratulations Brianna



AMITY COLLEGE MULTICULTURAL REPORT

On Thursday 31st of October, 20 Year 10 students set out to Amity College in Preston. We arrived just before 10 o'clock and were welcomed into the school by other Year 10 students.

We started by participating in some icebreaker games in which we mixed with the Amity College students to learn more about each other. We then broke up into groups to brainstorm and discuss aspects and values of Australian culture.

We came up with ideas such as mateship, generosity, compassion and inclusivity. We then discussed the aspects of multiculturalism in Australia and shared personal experiences of new cultures and how they enrich Australia as a country.



After these discussions we moved out into the playground where the rest of the College had prepared an amazing multicultural lunch. There was a huge range of stalls set up with lots of authentic food from countries such as Iraq, Somalia and Japan. After we indulged ourselves at the stalls we headed into the hall with the rest of the Amity College students and guests for the Multicultural Assembly.

We heard from former NSW Premier and former Minister for Ethical Affairs the Hon. Barry Unsworth as he discussed the ways Australia expresses its multiculturalism and why it is such a valuable asset for our country. The assembly was concluded with some amazing performances from students, including Mercy's own Reese R who performed on the piano.

Overall it was such an enriching day, and so valuable to step outside our own communities and learn about the lives of others.

Genevieve O—Year 10

POETRY IN ACTION

There are many different types of poems, from classic Australian ballads like 'Man From Snowy River' to love sonnets such as 'How do I love thee?'. Each of these pieces express emotions that help us all connect to what the writer is thinking and feeling.

We were fortunate enough to have Poetry in Action come and perform for us. They turned poems written centuries ago and rap and pop lyrics from today into amusing tales, teaching us about the power of alliteration, rhythm, rhyme and form.



The actors taught us how poems are relevant to us today and showed us that poems need emotion and form. We enjoyed Poetry In Action and we hope that they come to Mercy again to teach us more about poetry.

Victoria F and Bettina M



The theme for Year 7s first Reflection Day at Mercy College was Have Courage & Be Kind. The day started with ice breaker games based around a "sinking ship", throughout these games groups of girls were "interviewed" by Ms Gange and we began to hear from different girls and learn about their interests.

The small groups were lead for the day mainly by senior students. Within these groups everyone was encouraged to make stronger bonds and get to know each other in a safe and open environment.

The Mirror Mirror self-reflection created some space to think about *if there was one thing I wanted others to know about me, it would be that ...*. And, following this, the What Divides and What Unites activity challenged Year 7 to reflect on how it makes them feel when someone is kind to them and how it makes them feel when someone is not kind, with the message **We are not made for cruelty, we are made for companionship and love**. This was an opportunity for each girl to reflect on their sense of self as well as highlighting their strengths and positive attributes. Before lunch, in pairs, everyone participated in a Getting to Know You Walk where they got to go with a partner and walk around the oval. This gave them the opportunity to form a connection with someone new and discover some of the similarities they share.



A fun lunchtime was spent running around on the oval and sharing lunch together before starting the afternoon with the Happy Dance. Finally, in our small groups, we passed around a yarn of wool and gave compliments to each person before finishing the day off by gathering for prayer.



Overall the Year 7's described it as an entertaining, fun and spiritual day where they were all inspired to embrace their strengths and lift up each other. This was a great way for all of them to make new friendships and strengthen their bond as a Year Group.

Sydney M
Year 7 Prefect

"4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
8 Love never fails."

(1 Corinthians 13)



CREATIVE ARTS SHOWCASE GALLERY



MCC P&F 2019 AGM and Last Meeting of the Year

Thank you to the parents who attended this meeting last week. The P&F Executive and Suzanne Kavanagh provided a summary of the year's events. Minutes of meetings are available on the school web site after they are confirmed.

I would like to thank the P&F Executive members stepping down this year, for their enthusiasm and support over the last few years.

Carmel Daniels – Vice President 2019 and **Jacqui Hester** – Secretary 2018 and 2019. They have given their time freely and generously to ensure we could run each event to benefit the students, families and visitors to the school. Melinda Holmes has kindly offered to be Treasurer again in 2020.

The positions of President, Vice President and Secretary are currently vacant should you be interested in taking on a role in 2020. I would be grateful if you could contact me if you would like to discuss the time commitment for any of these roles. I have documented MCC P&F events in previous newsletters and confirm that the time commitment to run these events is minimal, however they are all very rewarding and ensure we build and enhance a lovely community at the school.

Year 7 2020 Information Evening – Friday 15 November 2019 – Seeking Year 9 Parent Volunteers

Thank you to the three Year 9 parents who have volunteered to help BBQ and serve drinks at this function. If you have a daughter in Year 9 and are free to help for an hour or so, I would be grateful if you could contact me by Monday 11/11/2019.

The information evening is for girls beginning their high school years at MCC next year. It is held between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

Parents of these girls also attend this evening, as do current Year 9 MCC students as they will be the Year 10 'Big Sisters' for these incoming Year 7 girls.

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

Phillipa Sobb

perrysobb@gmail.com
0411 429 629



The Mayor, Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney and the
Councillors of Willoughby City invite you to celebrate

The Festive Season

**6pm to 8pm
Wednesday
4 December**

**Level 1 Foyer (near Concert Hall)
The Concourse, 409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood**

RSVP by Thursday 28 November
Click here, or email
michelle.wegener@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

LOWES

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EXCLUSIVE TO ZERO & REWARDS
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INSTORE & ONLINE THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER.

* Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & Schoolwear kayby's. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only. Styles and colours may vary from store to store.

No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount.

Offer ends midnight (AEST) 14/11/19. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.

Total Canteen Solutions

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Getting started!

Step 1. Download Qkr! on your Android phone or iPhone Via [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
iPad users can download iPhone App.

Step 2: Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3: Find Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood

Search for Mercy Catholic College or Chatswood

Step 4: Register your Child/ren

When first accessing your school menu; you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school payments on their behalf.

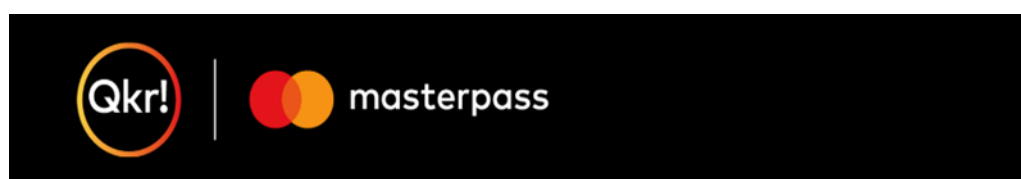
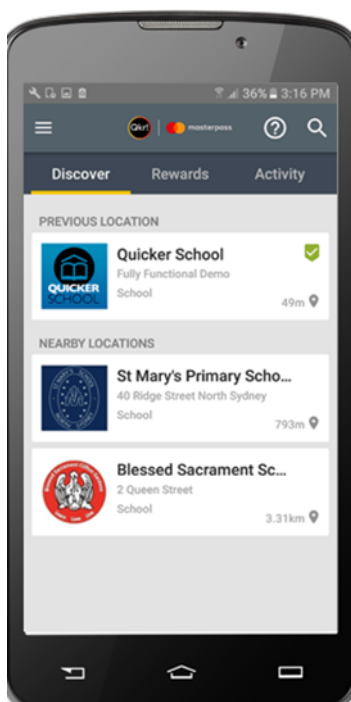
Note: The [Qkr web client](#) is available for those not wanting to complete transactions from their mobile phone.

About the Qkr! App

Qkr is a safe, secure and reliable way to pay for school items. Qkr is provided by MasterCard so you know the payments are secure. No information is stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the MasterCard network.

For more information please click on the link below or contact Mrs Margaret Kellendonk Co-curricular activities Administrator 9419 2890 or margaret.kellendonk@dbb.catholic.edu.au

[https:// www.marcard.com.au/en-au/about-mastercard/who-we-are/qkr.html](https://www.marcard.com.au/en-au/about-mastercard/who-we-are/qkr.html)



Q. How can I keep track of my Qkr! payments?

A. Itemized Qkr! eReceipts provide a record of purchase and are a convenient way to keep track of your Qkr! payments.

To view your eReceipts:

1. Open Qkr! and tap 'Activity'.
2. Scroll down to 'Order History' and tap 'Receipt' to view eReceipts.

Never lose a receipt: email receipts to your account:

1. Select the eReceipt you wish to email to yourself.
2. Tap on the mail icon at the top right of your screen.
3. Tap 'Send' to email the eReceipt to your email address, or enter another email address, and tap 'Send'.