



The Mercy Voice

Term 4 Issue 4
25 November — 6 December
2019

In this Issue:

Page

1. *Principal's Message*
3. *Director of Mission & RE*
4. *Co-curricular News*
7. *Student News*
12. *P & F News*
13. *Parent News*

Upcoming Events:

WEEK NINE

11 Dec– Biology Excursion

**12 Dec—Academic Awards
Night 7.00pm The Concourse
Chatswood**

**13 Dec—Term 4 concludes
Advent Mass and Picnic Day**

**WEEK ONE TERM ONE
2020**

29 Jan—Year 7 & 10 attend

**30 Jan—Classes commence
for all Students**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful evening was had by all last Tuesday at the **Volunteers' Cocktail Party**. It was the night of the "big storm" and a number of parents couldn't get past fallen trees and blacked-out traffic lights, but for those that did joined the College Executive for a lovely feast of Thai food and shared stories and laughter.



I want to sincerely thank all parents and carers who have helped in anyway this year, from coaches of sporting teams, to P&F Association members, to the many helpers at our Breakfasts and barbeques. We are all time-poor, but it is your generosity of spirit which demonstrates the great sense of belonging we have in our community.



I especially acknowledge Mrs Carmel Daniels, who has been a strong supporter of our community for the past eight years as she has seen two of her daughter's through a Mercy education. Carmel was not only Vice-President of the P&F Association this year, but she will be remembered more for her unwavering support at every function over those eight years. From being here every Open Day, attending the P&F Cocktail parties each year, cooking delicious food to serve at Mothers' Day Breakfasts, to baking cupcakes for our 125th Birthday celebration. Carmel, the community thanks you for your generosity, your dedication and strong sense of service.

We farewell Carmel from our community as her youngest daughter graduated this year.



Carmel and Suzanne



PARENTS AND FRIENDS ADVISORY ASSOCIATION 2020 EXECUTIVE:

Once again in 2020 our community will be served by talented parents who have been nominated onto the Executive of the P&F. These fine people are the parents who represent the rest of the parent body and assist the College Executive.

President: Phillipa Sobb

Vice President: James Makarewicz

Secretary: Samantha Edwards

Treasurer: Melinda Holmes

SISTER KATHLEEN GILCHRIST CAMPUS:

You may remember that earlier in the year I had a competition with the students being asked to come up with a name for our new building. Up to now it has been known as the Kirk Street campus, after the side street on which it is located.

The decision has been made to name it after the last Sister of Mercy who was Principal at Mercy College: the Sister Kathleen Gilchrist Campus, or Gilchrist Campus for short. The rooms will be labelled G1 to G10. I think it a fitting tribute to honour the many years of dedicated service not only from Sister Kathleen herself, but from the many Sisters who served our school over the years.

HSC 2019 RESULTS:

As we eagerly await the results of the HSC written papers in just over a week's time, we have received some exciting news about two of our students having their major work nominated for display.

Angela Prajogo has been nominated for inclusion in Textstyle, the annual exhibition of outstanding Major Textiles Projects developed for the HSC.

Remie Collins has had her work nominated for inclusion in Shape, the annual exhibition of a selection of exemplary Major Projects developed by HSC Design and Technology and Textiles and Design students.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS FOR SEMESTER TWO:

As advised earlier, the Semester 2 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will take place on Tuesday the 17 December, between 9am and 3pm. An email will be sent to you, which will allow you to log-in and make appointment times with your daughter's teachers. This is the same process as was done in Semester 1.

Best wishes

Principal

"I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word." (Lk 1:38)

This year we as a College community have been inspired by the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a young women who said 'Yes' to God and placed her full trust in His love and promises. Students were called to respond to Pope Francis' challenge to echo Mary's "yes" in their lives and to be "influencers" in their communities.

This term students and staff have shown immense generosity by supporting numerous social justice initiatives which have included:

The Year 9 "Share the Dignity" Fundraiser
The MAG Drought and Bushfire Collection
Tutor Groups donating food and Christmas items for the St Vincent de Paul
Christmas Hamper Appeal

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.



ACYF Perth 7-12 December

"Listen to what the Spirit is saying". (Rev 2:7)

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia.



On Saturday morning 19 students from Year 10 and 11 accompanied by Ms Stojanovski and Miss Gange will be leaving for Perth to attend the 2019 ACYF. The theme of the festival is "Listen to what the Spirit is saying". (Rev 2:7) It is a theme that is a reminder to all young people that when the Spirit speaks, God is calling us out of our comfort zones to live a life of discipleship. Attending ACYF will give our students the opportunity to experience an encounter with Christ, learn more about how to be a disciple of Jesus and explore their faith with thousands of young people in Australia.

Throughout the three day festival students will be involved in a number of contemporary and engaging plenary sessions, workshops and praise and worship experiences. The festival will conclude with a pilgrimage walk and Closing Outdoor Mass at Trinity College in Perth.

We will be praying for our College community while we are at ACYF. I ask you to also pray for our pilgrims, that they may be enlivened by the Holy Spirit and bring the fire, energy and joy of the spirit and their faith back to their school and their families.

Ms Gabie Stojanovski
Director of Mission & Religious Education

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to both the Mercy Diamonds (Year 7) and Mercy Mavericks (Year 8) for winning their respective Basketball Grand Finals at MWBA on Monday night. Also a big thank you to their Coaches and Managers (Diamonds: Chris Sporer and Joe Lorefice) (Mavericks: Sinclair Watson, Guy Magee and Michelle Crawford) for doing such a wonderful job and supporting the girls throughout the year.

Mavericks received their team awards earlier this term with the Diamonds awarded at the end of their grand final. Congratulations to Lily B (Most Improved) and Lily F (MVP).



Congratulations too to our other new Year 7 team the Mercy Marlins who although they did not place in the finals they had a great season under the guidance of their wonderful coach Kathy Johnsun. All players had a fantastic season with the Major Awards going to Hannah J (Coach's Award) and Bianca M (MVP).



Mrs Margaret Kellendonk
Co-curricular Administrator

RUGBY SUCCESS

After months of fierce competition in the NSW Schoolgirls Rugby 7s competition, it all came down to Monday evening. Mercy's three rugby 7s teams played a combined total of seven qualifying finals games with all teams making the Grand Final. Our intermediate team beat Mount St Benedict's in a cracking game with a last minute try to secure victory. This was their second grand final win this year and fourth in a row which is a very commendable achievement.

Our junior and senior teams were not as fortunate, going down to Killara HS and Barker College respectively, yet still walking away with a runner up medal. In both these teams, many of the players were new to rugby this year and deserve to be recognised for backing themselves in such a physical sport.

Another highlight of the evening was when Gemma F was awarded the Junior Player of the Competition; a fantastic achievement in her first year of rugby.

Thanks so much to all players who demonstrated courage, skill and awesomeness throughout this competition. Also, thank you to all parents and friends for supporting this great game and your daughters.





INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS



SENIOR RUNNERS UP



JUNIOR RUNNERS UP

Mr Mark Cuttler
PDHPE Co-Ordinator

GOGGLE AUSTRALIA EXCURSION

Our Year 9 IST class, along with a selection of girls from Years 7-9, were lucky enough to attend an excursion to Google Australia's offices in Pyrmont. Google offers this excursion to select schools with the aim of educating and encouraging students, and especially girls, to pursue a career in information technology. The group listened to a panel of 4 "Googlers" chat about their experiences in IT and how they were recruited to the software giant. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions, of which there were many!



Following the excursion all students were asked to complete a survey on their experiences. A sample response below from Anneliese J (Year 8), shows the calibre of insightful and observant girls we have here at Mercy.

Q: What did you like best about the excursion?

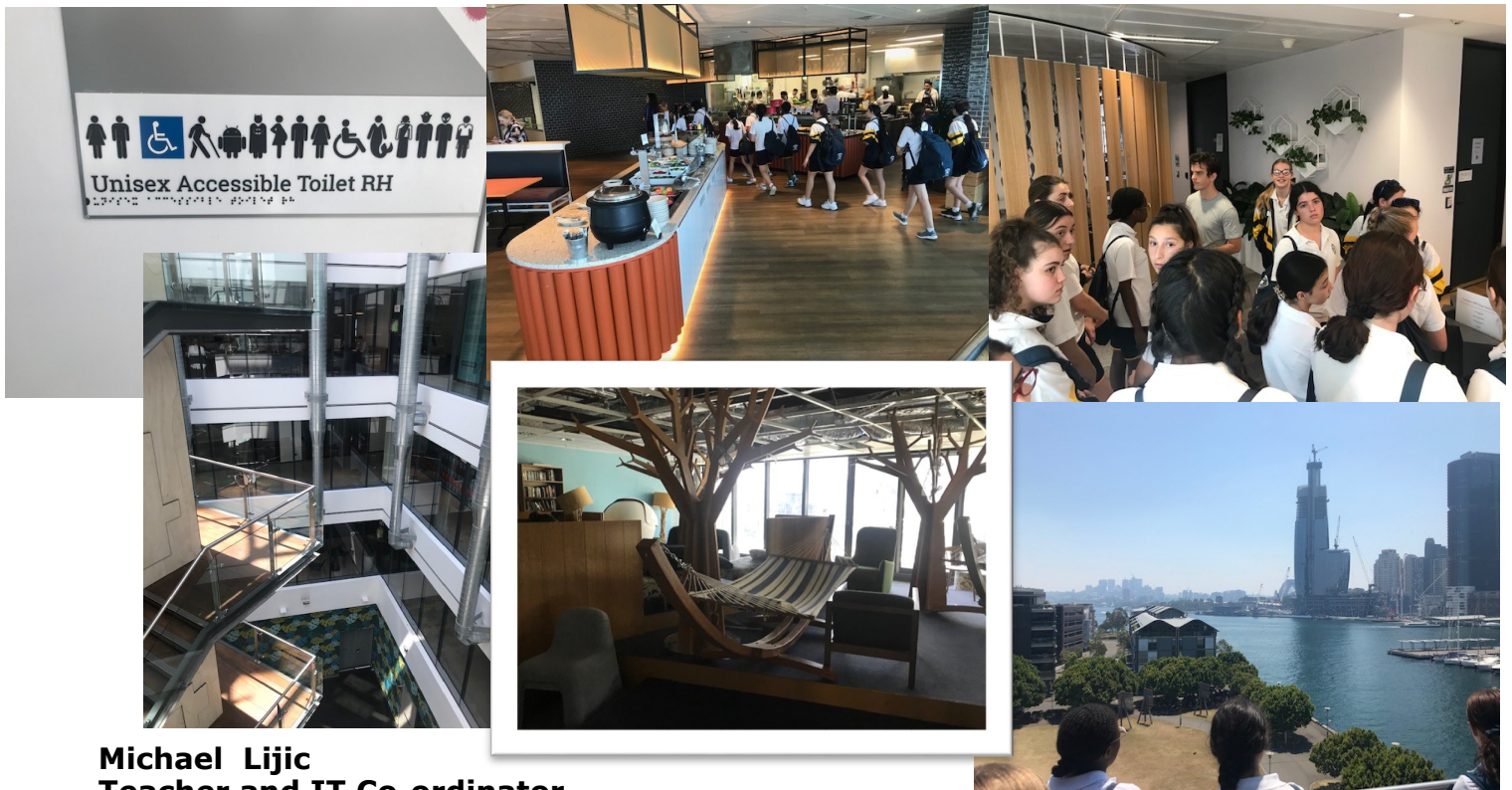
A: I really enjoyed learning about the workflow of Google, and how different career paths intertwine to make a massive impact on the final product. I thoroughly enjoyed the panel at the beginning, a discussion on the roles in the subject of technology and what you can do to achieve goals in that area.

Q: What did you find most inspiring about the excursion?

A: I found it really inspiring how much the people love their job. It shows that when you put hard work and effort, you will get a great end product and end up in a job you really love. I believe this affects the work quality of Google, and it shows how passionate the "Googlers" are in the technology linking with Google.

Q: Were there any question you would have liked to ask the panel? (maybe you were too nervous to ask or didn't think of the question till later)

A: I think I would like to know if you have any restraint in creativity; like do you do the same procedures every day, or have to follow the same workflow to achieve the final product, or can you have creativity in the projects you work on?



Michael Lijic
Teacher and IT Co-ordinator

BEAUTIFUL READING

Last Friday (Nov 29) the Year 10 students engaged in a number of different workshops as part of their alternate end of year program. They participated enthusiastically in the beading workshop, where they created a number of beautiful bracelets, anklets and earrings.

I loved watching them design their masterpieces as they chose their beads, arranged their colours, chatted and listened to music. (I did have a bit of a laugh watching some of them try to pick up tiny beads with their big 'formal fingernails' though). As you can see the results were quite stunning and they should be really proud of their achievement. Hopefully they enjoy wearing their new jewellery and are inspired to make some more in the future.



Ms C. Dorey
Teacher - Modern and Ancient, History, Religious Education
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

DEBATING NEWS—MERCY v DRUMMOYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

We were fortunate to have Drummoyne Public School Year 6 debaters come for a friendly match against our Years 7 & 8 debaters. It was a great opportunity to collaborate and learn new skills from each other.

Year 9 had the task of mentoring the Year 6 students in the ways of high school debating. They were fantastic mentors and it certainly showed in the debates after preparation time, we even had one of Catherine McAuley's quotes feature.

Both debates were very close and could have been awarded to either side. The topics were 'That schools should end the practice of giving awards' and 'That we should spend more money exploring space.'

Unfortunately Drummoyne was the winning side in both debates, with strong examples and refutations. Our Year 9 debaters did a fantastic job of adjudicating both debates. Thanks to Mrs Mooney for organising the friendly debates. Thanks also to Mrs Morgan and Mr Regoli for their support in watching the debates.

Year 8 debaters;

Drummoyne public school put up a fight and had great success. Overall, it was a great experience, as we learnt many new things which will help us a lot next year when competing in the CSDA competition.

Larissa C, Martha W, Miranda B

Year 9 Debaters;

It was a rewarding experience to see the girls develop their skills from the prep room from when they debated. We helped the girls brainstorm points for the topic, while helping them improve their structure and technique. We were also able to improve and build on our own adjudicating skills as we listened and evaluated the debate. We were incredibly happy with the results of the debate as both Drummoyne teams won! It was a great experience to improve our teaching skills and reflect upon the things we have learnt over the years as a debating team.

Isabella H, Jenna B, Kate S, Sofia S

Year 7 Debaters;

It was a close debate and both teams did an excellent job of arguing their cases. Overall, It was a great experience and we learnt a lot to take forward into the competition next year.

Summer L, Bettina M, Isabella F, Min S



NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Each year, we offer students in Years 7 to 9 the opportunity to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Challenge runs from March to August and students are required to read 20 books during this time. The Challenge aims to encourage students' love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature.

We are pleased to announce that in 2019, twenty students have successfully completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. We commend the following students for their dedication and perseverance in completing the Challenge:

Year 7:

Victoria F
Chloe D
Minchae S
Ariana G-P
Nina S
Mikaela A
Bettina M
Audrey L
Chloe C
Lori Z
Isabella F
Olivia F

Year 8:

Olivia T
Alyssa C
Amanda C
Eadie C
Chloe D
Maree P
Cleo W
Emma M

Of these twenty students, two have received special awards. Olivia F and Emma M have each been awarded a Platinum Certificate after having completed the Challenge on seven occasions, and reading 140 books across seven years.

We congratulate you on this fantastic achievement!

The Premier's Reading Challenge will once again be offered to students in Years 7 to 9 to participate in next year, so I encourage students in Years 8 and 9 in 2020 to consider taking part.



Ms Siobhan Betts
Teacher Librarian



Year 7 – Creating a Positive Digital Footprint

In Year 7 RISE this term we have been discussing the implications of Digital Footprints; as soon as you go online you start creating a trail of information about yourself. As Year 7 are turning 13, the legal age for signing up to many online applications, it is an appropriate time to consider how to ensure their ongoing online presence is a positive one.

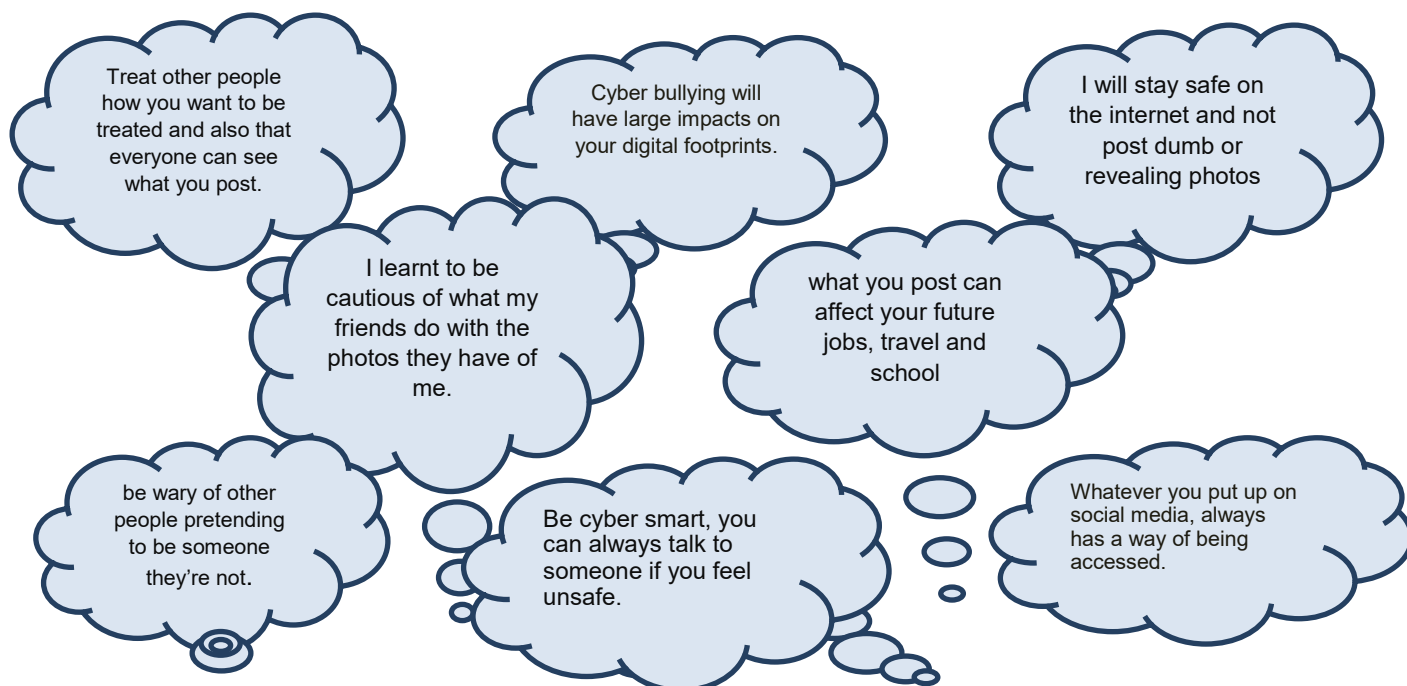
In small groups, facilitated by a senior student and a teacher, students have been discussing the implications of their online interactions and how they can ensure that when their name is Google searched in the future, the links that appear are ones of which they are proud.

We have used a number of different resources

- the Australian eSafety website, Your Digital Footprint <https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources/be-deadly-online/your-digital-footprint>,
- the Australian eSafety website, Your Digital Footprint <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/your-digital-reputation>
- McDonalds employee contract regarding use of social media,
- Constable Mark Thomas addressed the Year Group, this week, with a number of messages about being safe online.

Among other advice, Constable Thomas informed the students about supporting one another if cyber bullying occurs, the risk of being groomed online; it's difficult to know who you are actually talking to in an online setting, and, if there is ever a situation they feel uneasy about then they should report it to an adult.

Year 7 have taken away many valuable messages ...



If you would like further information, there are a number of support agencies available including:

the eSafety Commissioner website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>
the AFP <https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/campaigns/thinkuknow>
Stay Smart Online <https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/>

Ms Tracey Stancliffe
Year 7 Year Co-ordinator

MCC P&F Executive 2020

I would like to thank **Melinda Holmes** for offering to continue her role as Treasurer for 2020. Also, thank you to **James Makarewicz** for taking on the role of Vice President and **Samantha Edwards** who has offered to be the Secretary. It becomes more difficult each year recruiting for these roles, despite their decreasing time commitment, so I am extremely grateful to have this dedicated group to help me support you and your daughters next year.

Merry Christmas and Thank You

Thank you to the MCC staff who hosted the annual Volunteer Cocktail Party for parents at school. It is always a very special evening and lovely to be acknowledged by the school.

I would like to especially thank the parents whose names are not mentioned regularly in the newsletter, however they give so much time and energy to the school and our daughters.

Each of the co-ordinators of the co-curricular activities and the coaches and managers ensure MCC has a wide variety of activities for our daughters. Their voluntary commitment in terms of time and effort is far greater than the P&F roles – thank you so much. Especially those who continue in these roles even if their daughter has no interest in the activity or has finished at MCC.

I wish all staff, parents and students a very Happy and Holy Christmas. I hope those able to take a break from work enjoy their time with their family.

On behalf of all parents and students, I convey my sincere gratitude to the teaching and non teaching staff at MCC for ensuring our daughters are well educated in a happy and caring environment.

See you at school in 2020.

Phillipa Sobb
MCC P&F President

perrysobb@gmail.com
0411 429 629

*Thank
you!*



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

POP UP MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday 14 January
Chatswood Youth Centre
5 - 8:30pm
Ages 12 -18



Come and enjoy a chilled movie night with your friends and a BBQ.

Bookings at eventbrite.com.au



40
AVAILABLE
SPACES

\$5

GLAM-BOXING RELOAD

Thursday 16 January
Chatswood Youth Centre
9:00-1:00pm
Ages 12 -18
Lunch included



Come along to unleash, unwind and nourish yourself with kickboxing, inspirational speakers, mindfulness, creativity and nutrition whilst we explore themes around body esteem.

Gender and culturally inclusive event.
Bookings at eventbrite.com.au



30
AVAILABLE
SPACES

\$20

PAMPER DAY

Tuesday 21 January
Ku-ring-gai Youth Centre
10:00-2:00pm
Ages 12 - 24
Free transport - Meet at Chatswood Youth Centre at 9.15am - returning by 2.45pm



In partnership with Ku-ring-gai Council, Ku-ring-gai Youth Services invites you to sit back and relax these school holidays with a 'Treat Yourself Day'.

It includes pampering, a delicious lunch and a movie.

Bookings required:
kmc.nsw.gov.au/youth
9424 0994 - youth@kmc.nsw.gov.au



20
AVAILABLE
SPACES

FREE



CYC LOADED-PASS

Thursday 23 January
Chatswood Youth Centre
10.00am - 2.00pm
Ages 12 - 24



A loaded day of activities to celebrate the last of the school holiday bliss!

The CYC will be your one-stop-shop for all your artistic, sporty, creative and musical needs. Join us as you design your day, bouncing from different workshops all over the Centre. Finish up with a BBQ at Chatswood Skate Park.
No bookings required



FREE

Cnr Albert Avenue and Victor Street, Chatswood Ph: 9777 1062 or 9777 7538

