



The Mercy Voice

Term 4 Issue 5
9 December — 20 December
2019

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Upcoming Events:

WEEK ONE TERM ONE
2020

29 Jan—Year 7 & 10 attend

30 Jan—Classes commence
for all Students

SAVE THE DATE

Year 12 2020 Information
Evening
Tuesday 4 February 2020
6pm to 7pm

Year 11 2020 Information
Evening
Tuesday 11 February 2020
6pm to 7pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the close of 2019, I would like to thank everyone for such an amazing year. We truly have great strengths as a College, with the wonderful school spirit and positive culture that thrives amongst the student body and the role modelling and professionalism inherent in our staff.



I have much appreciated the substantial commitment through time, personal and collective effort and philanthropy from our parent body. It has been truly outstanding.

We say farewell to staff that are leaving us this year and thank them for their contribution to our community:

- Mr Mark Strong, who has been a member of our English faculty since 2016. Over the past four years he has been a dedicated teacher, passionate about his subject area and enthusiastic about passing this passion on to his students.
- Mrs Rheem Ayyoub has worked as the assistant in the Food Technology kitchens for the past three years and we wish her well as she concentrates on her own business venture.
- Mrs Donna Selby leaves us after two years being on temporary contracts in both the Religions Education (RE) and the History departments. Mrs Selby has worked diligently to ensure all her students were engaged in the lesson.
- Miss Naomi James was at Mercy on a twelve month contract, filling a maternity leave position. She worked tirelessly towards meeting the needs of our students. We wish her well in her new school.

REMINDERS FOR 2020:

College Office: reopens 23 January

Teaching Staff return: 28 January

Years 7 and 10 return: 29 January

Classes commence for all students: 30 January

HSC RESULTS:

Congratulations to the Class of 2019. We are all so proud of their HSC results and there is much to celebrate.

- 3 students are All Rounders (Band 6 in best 10 units)
- 82 Distinguished Achievers

These results have allowed Mercy College to be ranked 99 in the State. What an amazing achievement to be ranked 99th out of over 800 schools.



Class of 2019 celebrating HSC results

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS:

Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Make this Christmas a time of healing; a time you speak to that sibling, neighbour or friend that you had an argument with; a time where you help a neighbour or visit an elder relative you haven't seen for a while.

I wish every family and staff member the peace and joy of this Christmas season and a relaxing, safe holiday.

Best wishes

Suzanne Kavanagh

Principal



SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2020

- January 23 & 24 - Office open 9am – 3pm
- January 29 - Years 7 & 10 commence 8:30 – 12noon
- January 30 - All students return 8:30am
- February 17 - Opening College Mass 9am
- March 1 - Open Day 11am -2pm (Sunday)
- September 23 - Year 12 Awards and Graduation
- December 10 - College Academic Awards Evening

Other important dates will be on the College website in late January

Ms Liz Kayrooz
Assistant Principal

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the Mercy Magic (aka Wildcats) on winning their final in the U18 Div 2 competition at the Northern Suburb Basketball Association last Friday night. Under the guidance of their Coach John Harmata the team played their best game of the season to take the title claiming victory (37-34) over the Northside Raiders.

Having played the raiders twice this year without a win the girls shook off their nerves and outdid themselves in a nail biter of a game. Congratulations Annabelle S, Aria P, Tehya B Sophie F, Charlotte T, Stephanie G and Natalie H.

A huge thank you to John for coaching the team since Year 7.

A wonderful year for Mercy Basketball with John who is also our volunteer Basketball Convenor at the helm. Another example of the generosity of our amazing parent body. For those who might be interested in playing with Mercy in 2020 please contact Margaret Kellendonk on margaret.kellendonk@dbb.catholic.edu.au to express your interest.



Mrs Margaret Kellendonk
Co-curricular Administrator

Our crêpe making experience

On Tuesday the 26th of November, our Year 9 French class participated in the making of french crêpes and galettes (savory crêpes).

We started off by looking at recipes and ingredients in French and then proceeded to translate them into English. We did this prior to Miss Smith's demonstration of how to make both the crêpes and galettes.

We had access to a range of toppings, crêpes we could choose between lemon sugar "citron sucré", apple sauce or chocolate spread. For the galettes we could choose between, ham, cheese or spinach, or use a combination.

During the making of our crêpes and galettes we were encouraged to employ the "il faut échouer pour réussir" growth mindset. This in English means we must first fail to succeed. Many of us employed this growth mindset throughout our crêpe making experiences. We celebrated the triumphs and laughed off the mishaps.

Personally, I experienced some difficulties at first, I had mistakenly used the wrong pan and the batter began to coagulate! I employed the "il faut échouer pour réussir" growth mindset, which resulted in me trying again and making two crêpes that were near perfect!

We all enjoyed making both the crêpes/galettes and overall we loved having a taste of French food.

Thank you Miss Smith for the wonderful experience.
Bon appétit!



RESOURCE CENTRE

Christmas Holiday Reading:

With the Christmas holidays almost upon us, now is a good opportunity to remind everybody that students are able to borrow books from the Resource Centre over the holiday period.

For those who prefer to enjoy reading on their device whether it's a phone, Chromebook, laptop, iPad, tablet or eReader; students can visit our eBook platform at mercy.wheelers.co to have access to borrow from our collection of 2016 digital books across a range of genres.

New users are not required to register; instead their eBook account will be created on their first login. Simply click Sign In on the Home page, then click Sign In again, and use your school network username and password to log in.

New Audiobook Platform

We are excited to announce to the College community, that we are now able to provide our students with the ability to enjoy connecting with books through our Audiobook platform. Accessible through the same address as our eBook platform at mercy.wheelers.co, after signing in with their College network username and password, students can choose to listen to any of our 714 books in audio form, that are on offer. Look for the books with a picture of a set of headphones in the bottom right hand corner of the cover!

New audiobooks will continue to be added to this collection, as well as those regularly being added to the eBook collection.

For further information or assistance in using our eBook or Audiobook system, please see Resource Centre staff who will be happy to help or email Ms Betts on siobhan.betts@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Ms Siobhan Betts
Teacher Librarian

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CHATSWOOD EST. 1890

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Displaying 91 to 120 (2,729 total) Sort: New Releases

AVAILABILITY

- ☐ Available Now 2540
- ☐ Out / Queued 189

AUDIENCE

- ☐ Child
- ☐ Teen
- ☐ General Audience
- ☐ Adult

CATEGORY

- ☐ Fiction 2537
- ☐ Non-Fiction 131
- ☐ Child / Teen 2065

FORMAT

- ☐ EPUB 2009
- ☐ Audiobook 714
- ☐ PDF 6

LANGUAGE

Book Covers:

- The Apocalypse Club by Brian Kossicki
- Last Bus to Everland by Sophie Cameron
- Devil's Ballast by Meg Caddy
- Attraction by Ruby Porter
- Up for Air by Laurie Morrison
- Promise Me Happy by Robert Newton
- Her Royal Highness by Rachel Hawkins
- Shouting at the Rain by Lynda Hunt
- Again, But Better: A.N. by Christine Riccio
- Shauna's Great Expectations by Kathleen Loughnan
- Aurora Rising
- We Are Not Okay by Natalie Gomes
- Toffee by Sarah Crossan
- The Girl Who Came Out of the Woods

THE QUEST

This year three girls from Year 10 - Sophie T, Karisma W, Charlotte W, and three from Year 8 - Rhea N, Maree P and Katelyn C, participated in The Quest at Australian Catholic University. This is the most anticipated National academic competition for Gifted and Talented Students. With the over-arching theme of ORDER IN RANDOMNESS, the Quest was offered over two days and involved concepts in Humanities, Sciences and Mathematics.



Practising teamwork and cooperation, while gaining an understanding of complex topics that provide a depth to their schoolwork, the Quest participants had the opportunity to challenge boundaries, to expand their insight and enthusiasm for learning and to gain confidence in their outstanding potential.

Both teams did exceptionally well, but special mention goes to our Year 10 team who demonstrated an outstanding ability and love of learning, as they fully engaged with the challenges. They deserve high praise for achieving consistently well in all topics, and came 1st in Maths, 4th in Science and 3rd overall in NSW!

On Friday the 6th of December the Year 10 team had the opportunity to represent Mercy and NSW at the National Quest Finals. Unfortunately, Karisma W was not available but thankfully, Sophie S accepted the challenge to take her place. They were brilliant and came 6th overall and 2nd in science Nationally! Fantastic effort girls!! Congratulations!!

Mr Regoli
Science Teacher/Careers

MERCY COLLEGE & ST PIUS X COLLEGE — FRENCH PEN PALS

This semester, Mercy's two French classes in Year Eight have been writing to their pen pals at St Pius X in French. The letters from the girls introduced themselves and talked about their family members, background, favourite foods, favourite sports, likes and dislikes about school subjects and also contained questions to their pen pals; all written in French.

The boys replied to these letters answering the questions and talking about their favourite things as well. Then, the girls and boys made Christmas cards for each other to later be exchanged in person.

On the 29th of November 8B met with the boys in Mercy's flex and on the 2nd of December 8A met with them at Mercy's K block rooms.

When the penpals met, they exchanged Christmas cards and greeted their pen pal face to face in French. They were then put into mixed groups and played a French trivia game, ran by the two French teachers, Miss Smith from Mercy and Ms McCormack from St Pius X. It became very competitive, as each group was trying their hardest to use all their French knowledge from the year. The group with the highest points were rewarded with Christmas candy canes at the end!

This amazing experience boosted the Mercy and Pius' French students' confidence in talking to people they didn't know, was great practice in writing and speaking in French and even tested their cultural knowledge about France too!

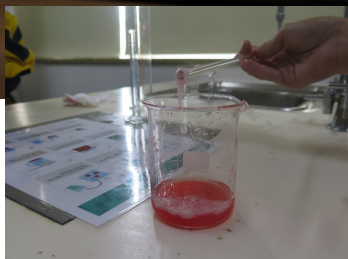
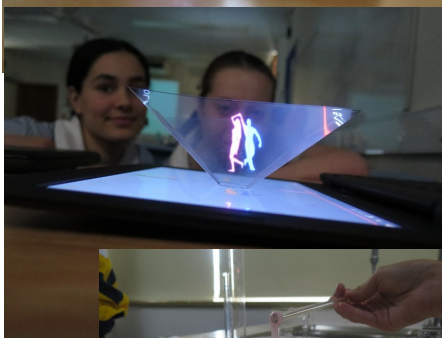
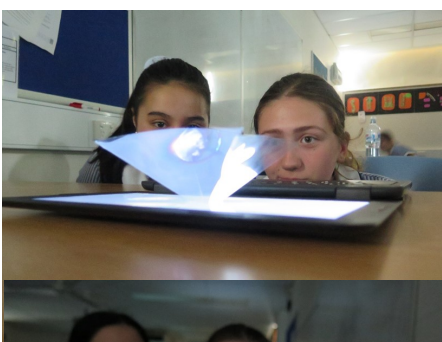
Merci beaucoup St Pius X!
Anabel A - 8A

STEM DAY 1

Year 7 students participated in their first STEM DAY on Monday 10th December. Students were in different groups and rotated between various activities including:

- racing their carbon dioxide powered cars they had made in the TEC classes
- extracting DNA from strawberries
- making lava lamps
- marshmallow challenge: making the tallest structures using spaghetti, marshmallows, tape and string
- making holograms using overhead projector sheets and Chromebooks

Students thoroughly enjoyed each activity and are looking forward to their second STEM DAY later this week.



Ms Kayrooz, Mrs Russell and Mrs Smeulders
STEM Day organisers

STEM DAY 2

The Catapult Challenge

Wednesday was our second STEM day. It was all about making a catapult using science, technology, engineering and maths. We had to make them out of set resources in groups of three or four. There were two competitions: who could launch a bean the furthest and who had the most creative.

One of the challenges was that we only had one pot and a video as a guide to make a catapult so our creativity could run wild. We were all very surprised by the fact that we could actually make one without the internet or instructions. We also announced who won the dragster car races, the cars went super fast and some even flew down the undercroft in under a second! Overall, STEM day was a great opportunity to use our STEM skills in a super fun way.

Isabelle Wan
Year 7

The rationale of our final STEM day for Year 7 was to allow the students to have an opportunity to apply the skills which they have learnt in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to a challenge.

The challenge was digital technology free and the students thrived in the opportunity to work together collaboratively and creatively to solve their design brief. The students used their planning, management and designing skills from Technology (Mandatory), their knowledge of Newtons Law of Motion from Science, their understanding of complex engineered systems from Technology (Mandatory) and their data collection, measuring and calculating skills from Maths to build and test a catapult.

All groups of students were able to successfully complete the challenge and were very proud of their final products as we were of them. They are to be congratulated on their skills, work ethic, creativity and, most importantly, their ability to work as a team.



Delia Russell
Technological and Applied Studies Coordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD

<http://www.dukeofed.com.au>



The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award will be offered at Mercy College in Year 9.

The **Bronze Award** requires a commitment of at least **3 hours a week for 3 months**, in the following:

Service – voluntary community service or a specialised training course (1 hour/week)

Skill – a cultural or social activity pursued to a deeper level (1 hour/week)

Physical Recreation – keeping fit and active (1 hour/week)

Expeditions – complete training and 2 overnight camping/hiking trips.

NB. You need to complete **an extra 3 months** in your choice of one of the first 3 sections.

You must be 13 years and 9 months old before starting your hours, but you can prepare ahead of time. None of these activities can be paid in any way. (eg If umpiring ask to withhold payments.)

The cost of the program is minimal to ensure equal opportunity. \$140 covers insurance and the administration of the ORB/Online Record Book (which goes to the Duke of Ed NSW Office). There are also the costs of each expedition (\$100-120 each) which covers camping fees, transport and supervision. (These are run by the school, on school days; dates for 2020 are May 21-22 and Sept 10-11).

The Dukes Office also offers grants - <https://dukeofed.com.au/resources/funding-assistance/> and you can also use your Service NSW Active Kids and Creative Kids vouchers for activities.

The Award is run on-line, which allows for girls to track their progress and access their details. Please have a look at the above website over the holidays and discuss with your parents whether you would like to participate. It should answer most questions you have, otherwise you can contact me for further help. Further meetings to be held next term, and official notes/forms/instructions will be given then.

Over the holidays please consider, decide on and fill in the following. For each component choose an activity, a goal and an assessor. Your assessor **MUST** be qualified, have a WWCC# and **NOT** be a family member (MCC teachers are ideal!). Next term you will receive assessor forms to fill in, so decide now to save time then. The website has an excellent guide for bronze participants with ideas for each component: <http://3wsou42v16p23nizfdnrklyt-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Award-Guide-for-Bronze-Award-Participants-.pdf>

Physical Recreation

example — soccer, netball, swimming, dance
see page 12-13 of the website for more ideas

Service

example — caring for others, coaching, scouts, church
see page 10-11 of the website for more ideas

NB. **MUST** be with a **NOT FOR PROFIT** group, so **NOT** a business eg. vet, dance

Skill

example — umpiring (unpaid), languages, photography, cooking
see page 14-15 of the website for more ideas

We do hope you'll join us on the awesome Duke of Ed journey.
Ta, Ms Dorey & Ms Kellendonk