Key Dates

Friday 14 June
Year 10/11/12 Exams conclude
Trinity Middle School Music Night

Monday 17 June
Year 12 Retreat (until 19 June)

Wednesday 19 June
10.1 RE Mass

Thursday 20 June
ACC Hockey Challenge

Monday 24 June
Changeover to Semester 2

Wednesday 26 June
10.2 RE Mass
MESA Meeting 6.15pm
Trinity Senior School Music Night

Thursday 27 June
Year 9 Social with Trinity College
(6.30pm - 9.30pm)

Friday 28 June
ACC Para Indoor Soccer

Principal’s Report

Girls are better off in all-girls schools? Food for thought!
Mercedes College belongs to the Alliance of Girls’ Schools. The aims and objects of the Alliance are to provide leadership in girls’ education to ensure the best opportunities and outcomes for girls in girls’ schools. It also promotes the education of girls in girls’ schools through creating public awareness of the philosophy and practice of girls’ schools.

It is important as a community providing for the education of girls that we revisit from time to time some of the key issues of a single-gender education. I have no wish in this small article to present an argument supporting Girls’ Schools. It is however worthwhile looking at some of the arguments from both sides so we can consolidate our own thinking about the advantages or disadvantages of girls in girls’ schools.

There is continual debate, by researchers and professionals with similar backgrounds taking opposing sides, about whether girls and boys achieve more or are more successful in a single-gender environment.

A quick search of on-line discussion forums on this topic indicates supporters of co-educational environments often use the socialisation of girls as a major focus in their argument. I discovered responses like the following very typical: My daughter will be better off in a mixed school...at least she will grow up being comfortable around boys, which is actually the natural, usual way of growing up. Being around boys in school is not necessarily more dangerous for your child. I think it will actually make her more aware of how boys are, and she will not feel awkward around them in the future. I think being in an all-girls school will actually not prepare her for the "real world" where boys and girls interact with each other regularly.

Proponents respond with this typical statement: Why do people think just because a kid attends an all-boys or all-girls school, they won’t interact with kids of the opposite sex? If your daughter goes to an all-girls school, she’ll just meet boys after school or the weekends. I would mostly focus on the school that will provide the best education, safety and quality teaching. The other stuff like boys, her self-image, and judgment would depend on how well you raised your daughter. Free from the judgement of boys, girls are active, not reactive. They’re not distracted, wondering What do the boys think of this?

The Alliance produces a brochure titled “Why a Girls’ School?” (http://www.agsa.org.au/page/About/Why_a_Girls_School/). This brochure states that research supports the following facts about girls in Girls’ Schools.

Girls’ schools are ideally positioned to educate, inspire and nurture the girls of today, who will be the leaders of tomorrow. While in coeducational schools, girls have to compete for attention and leadership positions with boys; in single-sex schools every girl has a voice. Curriculums are tailored for girls, who are given opportunities to develop and excel. Girls in single-sex schools can captain the debating team, choose to study physics or be part of a rowing team.

Girls’ schools are specialists in girls’ education. Teachers tailor their classes and curriculum for the girls. This means that students are more likely to be engaged with the content and the methods used in each subject. Girls are free to participate in class without the teacher’s attention being dominated by boys. Girls in girls’ schools achieve significantly stronger academic results than any other group in Australia. Without the competition from boys, girls are free to pursue academic excellence and each achievement is celebrated.

All the leadership roles in girls’ schools are filled by girls: from the captain of the touch football team to the head of the student body; from the first trombone...
in the school orchestra to the main part in the school play; and from student leadership groups to the leaders of every school club. Younger students see these female leaders as role models and learn that girls can lead in any field.

Girls at girl’s schools enjoy not only equal opportunity but every opportunity. All activities are open to girls: they participate, influence and lead. There is no gender stereotyping with subject selection. Girls are able and encouraged to explore a career or future in any area.

Girls can work through the challenges of adolescence without fear of embarrassment or harassment. Many single-sex girls’ schools run specific programs which counteract negative body imagery and ideals of how girls and women are portrayed in the media. Educators in girls’ schools believe strongly in helping girls to accept and be comfortable with ‘who they are’.

Girls’ schools prepare students to be citizens of the world, using rapidly developing technology and forming connections with girls in other countries. There is an emphasis on social justice and community as girls are encouraged to make connections with others outside the classroom walls.

Researcher Diana Meehan writes in her book Learning Like a Girl “Girls’ schools are good for girls. What’s good about them is they are totally and exclusively dedicated to girls. The research about how girls learn urges us to find a place they can “own” which only occurs in single-sex space; where their values, community, and connection are honoured; and where their ways of knowing are respected and their hearts engaged.”

Another researcher Steve Biddulph, author of Raising Boys, states “Boys and girls aged between 12 and 15 do not learn well together. The reasons are developmental. There is an almost two-year difference in the onset of puberty so girls leap ahead physically and emotionally.”

I have only presented some arguments so that students, parents and staff can all reflect on their own experiences and make their own judgements about some of the statements above.

I have invited some students from our Student Representative Council to investigate recognised research in this area and then survey our student population to compare and contrast the results. I look forward to their findings.

Mr Chris Cole, Acting Principal

BUY A KEEP CUP $10

Purchase a Keep Cup and you are helping to support the College’s MMG objective to reduce its environmental footprint.

- BPA free (non-toxic) - Microwavable and dishwasher safe - Fits most car cup holders - Fits under most barista heads.

The ‘Keep Cup’ is perfect for hot or cold drinks, and ideal for winter soups. Use a permanent marker to fill in your coffee preferences.

Term 2 Canteen Special

Soup and bun for $3.00 when you bring back your ‘Keep Cup’.

Students are reminded to bring their ‘Keep Cups’ back to the canteen clean with their name on the cup and lid.
Pastoral Care News

Years 7/8 Learning Community
Year 7 - Ms Danae Murphy

There is an air of excitement among the Year 7 students as they contemplate nominating for Student Representative Council (SRC). It is impressive to see the girls willing to take on extra responsibilities. If your daughter has brought home a nomination form, please read it carefully with her and discuss the commitment with her. Serving on the SRC is a valuable character building experience that the girls must be committed to. Not all girls who nominate can be successful and we would encourage them to seek out other extra-curricular opportunities if they do not join the SRC.

Some of the Year 7 girls still need to develop their organisational skills. We have seen students not taking care of their own belongings, not using their diaries effectively or struggling to manage homework time. Please monitor your daughter’s diary and encourage her to have an appropriate school routine, including being punctual for school and packing school bags with all of the required materials. We look forward to a team effort between school and home.

Soon you will receive your daughter’s report. I would encourage you to spend time discussing your daughter’s progress with her. It is valuable for the girls to receive positive reinforcement and to devise strategies to improve in any areas of concern. Hopefully this will be an opportunity for your daughter to see the College vision of success being rewarded and disappointment being acknowledged.

Year 9/10 Learning Community
Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams

Congratulations to those Year 9 students who have reached the stage of seeing me, Mrs Hughes or Mr Cole for positive diary entries for effort and achievement. It is now important that every girl has a focus on ensuring her uniform and grooming are also of the highest standard.

It is important that all Year Nine parents note that the last dancing lesson (20 June) will be at Mercedes College.

A letter has been sent home concerning the social to be held on 27 June. I am relying on parent help to facilitate the smooth running of the evening.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

With exams creating an all-time high level of stress, the career’s day at Curtin University was a welcome break for the girls. It was an opportunity to experience a day in the life of a university student. The girls participated in university challenges, sand had a Q&A session with representative students from different facilities. With upcoming subject selections, the day was a great indication of what a day is like for a university student and the different groups and activities offered around a campus. I wish the girls luck and success for the remainder of their exams.

Curriculum News

Academic Services - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services

Semester One Reports
These will be sent to your homes from Monday 8 July. As the Year 10, 11 and 12 students complete their examinations this week, the endeavours and progress of your daughters will be reflected in the reports. This will include grades for all courses including electives, and will feature a comment from Homeroom teachers about contributions to the life of the Mercedes College community.

Semester Two Changeover
This will occur on Monday 24 June and will mean that Year 7 students will change into new electives for Semester Two, and senior school students undertaking Courses of Study will move into the next unit of the paired grouping. Year 8, 9 and 10 students will continue in their current courses.

Year 11 Course Selection for 2014
It was wonderful to see so many parents and their daughters at the Course Selection Information Evening on Tuesday 4 June. This event marked the beginning of the in depth process your daughter will go into to make choices for courses in Year 11 next year. It is time for a lot of discussion, research and thinking about what courses will best suit talents, needs and aspirations for the future. Course counselling will begin on Tuesday 24 July and will run through to Friday 8 August and parents can book a meeting with Mrs Alach (Careers Counsellor) and Mrs Strutt (Deputy Principal – Academic Services) through PTO. Details will be sent with reports and bookings are made online.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Strutt on 9323 1379 or email lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

Information Technology and Business - Mr Des Loh

Year 8 Live IT Up! Excursion
Students were recently involved in an excursion called Computer Game Research Through Play. Students are asked to draw on knowledge gained from this excursion and incorporate it into their coursework and assessment task.

Mr Loh and Mr Grigg accompanied an eager group of students to Timezone in the heart of Northbridge, who enthusiastically
Year 8 Mathematics Streaming
Parents, please be aware that mathematics streaming will soon occur for all Year 8 students. This streaming is based on your daughter’s performance in Year 7 and the first half of Year 8. We will be forming two extended classes, 2 general classes and 1 general applied class (there is already an existing modified class). It is our intention to have these classes created for the last week of term 2. Be aware that all students will continue to study the Year 8 Australian Curriculum syllabus. The intention of the streaming is to allow the students to move at a pace more appropriate to their abilities (the extended classes will be able to delve more deeply into topics, whilst the general and general applied classes will be able to slow slightly to ensure the development of a thorough understanding of the fundamentals). Please also be aware that these classes are reviewed at the end of every semester to determine if there are any students who have been misplaced.

Year 10 and 11 Subject Selection
Students will soon be entering the phase of selecting the subjects they will be studying in 2014. For current Year 10 and 11 students it is very important to select an appropriate pathway which provides challenge yet does not overwhelm a student. The mathematics department will be giving subject selection advice to these students through a letter in their reports. This advice will be based on their performance in assessments up to and including the Semester 1 exam. Should you have any queries you are strongly urged to discuss the matter with your daughter’s mathematics teacher.

Meet the Business Leader - Perri Thompson and Alicia Jong
On Tuesday 14 May, the Year 10 and 12 Accounting and Finance students went on an excursion to the Perth Convention Centre called ‘Meet The Business Leaders’. This conference brought together over 650 students from various schools around Western Australia. We were seated with students from Years 10 to 12, from a mixture of schools, and a business leader. It provided us with the opportunity to meet, network and discuss with leaders about their career path. This was done so in a relaxed, friendly and informal environment. The business leaders presented students with a broad range of opportunities and career paths available to them as accounting graduates. At the conference, multiple guest speakers spoke of their experiences and pathways to becoming a business leader. ‘Meet The Business Leaders’ was such an invaluable educational experience.
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Careers - Mrs Cheryl Alach
Over the next few months Universities, Institutes of Technology and other private providers will be organising events to help students in planning their future pathways. It is important that students are aware and make the effort to attend the events. Please click HERE for the June Year 12 Careers Newsletter.

Languages
Culture in the City Club
This year we have explored many cultures, more recently the Italian, French and Vietnamese cultures. The girls were lucky enough to learn how to make fresh Italian tomato sauce from an authentic Italian family recipe with the assistance of Professoressa Velletri and the new Italian Assistant Nalini Denma. Yvette Vo, Year 11 student, shared her family’s recipe of the art of making fresh Vietnamese rolls. As a farewell to our French Language Assistant, Aurélie Connen de Kerillis, more recently showed the girls how to make authentic French crêpes.

Farewell to our Italian and French Assistants Agnese and Aurélie
We said a fond farewell to our Italian and French Language Assistants Agnese and Aurélie and appreciated their help and support in the Languages Department.

Introducing our current Language Assistants: Nalini Denma (Italian), Violaine Pahin (French) and Danqi Yan (Chinese).
The Mercedes students are very fortunate to have these native speakers sharing their knowledge of the language and culture with them.

Music - Ms Claire Gamlin
Select Choir
Year 11 & 12 students please check your uniform before Trinity Senior Music Night. Any alterations must come to Mrs Beros as soon as possible. The first combined Mercedes/Trinity Chorale rehearsal will be this Friday 14 June at Trinity, 3.45pm - 5.00pm. Girls are to make their own way there on the Red CAT bus after school on Friday. Year 11 & 12 girls are expected at this rehearsal. Mercedes/Trinity Vocal Ensemble will continue afterwards from 5.00 - 6.00pm, both rehearsals at Trinity in the Braham Auditorium.

Diary Dates
Friday 14 June
Trinity Middle School Music Night – Wind Ensemble in Gibney Hall at Trinity College. Please wear full winter uniform. Girls will be required from 7.30pm if they would like to watch the start of the concert, or 8pm in Basile Studio (rehearsal room) if they would like to come later. Entrance is by a gold coin donation.

Wednesday 26 June
Trinity Senior School Music Night – Wind Orchestra, String Orchestra, Select Choir, Madrigals in Gibney Hall. Girls required from approximately 6.30pm. Ticket information will be sent home at rehearsals next week.

Holiday Rehearsals
Tuesday 16 July
Select Choir, 9am – 12 noon in Rostrevor Lecture Theatre
Friday 19 July
Choir Rehearsal for Joseph 10am – 5pm in the Performing Arts Centre
Sunday 21 July
Choir Rehearsal for Joseph 10am – 5pm in the Performing Arts Centre

Mercedes/Trinity Music Photos
The girls will be required for Annual photos on Monday July 1. Photos will be held at Trinity College in Gibney Hall. All photos will be held between 3.10pm and 4.30pm, with girls to be picked up from Trinity after their photo. Exact details will be sent home on a note. Girls in Wind Ensemble, Wind Orchestra, String Ensemble and String Orchestra will be required to bring their instrument for the photos.
Cancelled Rehearsals
- Wind Ensemble rehearsal week 7 is cancelled (Tuesday 18 June) normal rehearsals for Weeks 8 & 9
- Choir, String Ensemble and Rock Band Rehearsals – the rehearsals scheduled for July 1 (Monday) are cancelled due to the Trinity/Mercedes photos that afternoon.
- Wind Orchestra rehearsal week 8 is cancelled (Wednesday 26 June) due to the Concert that evening.

Rehearsal Changes
Week 7
- Choir rehearsal on Monday, Select Choir Rehearsal on Thursday

Week 9
- Rock Band rehearsal on Wednesday

Reconciliation Week - Mrs Mia Siliquini
A great start to this week of celebration was the “Hands of Friendship”. Year 7 and 10 students cut out and decorated their “hands” before placing them into the shape of the Aboriginal flag in Memorial Garden. It was a constant visual reminder for all students of how the College acknowledged Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

Damper was made on Tuesday. Thank you to those who helped in our Indigenous program fundraising efforts. On Wednesday several of the College’s Indigenous students together with our MCfm deputies visited the Noongar Radio 100.9m in Northbridge. After touring the facility with broadcaster Michelle Wilson, we spent time in the live studio with Casey Kickett who came off air to share some time with us. Listen in for a call out from Jamela, Savannah and Shequita.

Josie Janz, a representative from the David Wirrapanda Foundation and talented defender with Westcoast Fever, visited on Thursday providing an insight to Year 10 students about her time as a young girl growing up on Thursday Island, representing the State in netball, and her work for the David Wirrapanda Foundation. Some of our own Year 10 sportswomen were fortunate to sharing morning tea with Josie afterwards.

To complete the week Maureen Forster and Gloria Bliss conducted artist in residence workshops for selected Year 7 and 9 students.

Thank you to all the staff and students who participated and supported our Reconciliation Week activities.

Sport - Mr Greg Smith
Interhouse Athletics Carnival
The Interhouse Athletics Carnival for 2013 will be held on Tuesday 2 July at WA Athletics Stadium, Stephenson Avenue, Mt Claremont. The first event is scheduled to start at 9.45am and the Carnival will conclude at 2.30pm. Due to time constraints, the Javelin and 1500m events will be conducted prior to the Carnival. These events will be conducted at the College, at lunchtimes, in weeks 6 – 8.

On the day students are to wear their House shirt, as part of their sports uniform, to school and to bring their sports bag, as space is limited at the Stadium and on the buses. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled. Students will be transported to and from the WA Athletics Stadium on hired buses in their respective House groups.

As there will be no canteen facilities on the day at Mercedes College and there is no student access to the Stadium kiosk, students will need to bring their own lunch, some snack food and drink bottle.

Parents are welcomed to attend and support on the day. If parents intend on taking their daughter home from the Stadium they will need to provide a note addressed to their daughter's homeroom teacher by Friday 28 June. Students who are being picked up from the Stadium must be collected from their House area, in the Athletics Stadium.

Click HERE for the program.

ACC Cross Country
Mercedes College was one of over 58 schools that competed in the Associated Catholic Colleges Cross Country on Thursday 30 May, at Alderbury Reserve in Floreat.
Running a 3km course on a very wet and cold day was a significant challenge, but the girls confronted the elements and ran exceptionally well.

The team finished 9th in the overall aggregate, with the Under 13 girls finishing 7th and the Under 16 girls finishing in 1st place. The performance of the Under 16 girls was outstanding, with three girls finishing in the top ten. The results of all competitors can be accessed on the ACC website which is www.accsport.asn.au.

Students who made it into the top 100 runners for their age group included the following:

**Under 13**
- Abigail Moroney 5th
- Caitlin Rees 33rd
- Madeleine O’Brien 41st
- Gemma More 94th

**Under 14**
- Emily Roberts 43rd
- Georgia Versteeg 51st
- Chloe Thexeira 72nd

**Under 16**
- Katie Martin 3rd
- Rachael Wales 7th
- Imogen Brierley-Hay 10th
- Ruby Martin 21st
- Kimberly Morrissey 27th
- Rebecca Hille 67th

**Open**
- Matilda Martin 5th
- Claudia Lewis 36th

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**Under 13**
- Abigail Moroney 5th
- Caitlin Rees 33rd
- Madeleine O’Brien 41st
- Gemma More 94th

**Under 14**
- Emily Roberts 43rd
- Georgia Versteeg 51st
- Chloe Thexeira 72nd

**Under 15**
- Caitlin Rumac 25th
- Iesha Palelei 89th

Congratulation to Kate Martin, Abigail Moroney and Matilda Martin who were selected in the 2013 All Stars team. To be selected in the All Stars team a competitor must finish in the top 5 for their age group. Congratulations to all the members of the 2013 Cross Country on an excellent result.

**ACC Para Fun Run**

On Friday 7 June, Victoria Coleman, Mia Deeviie, Gemma Ellis, Anna Grojanovich, Shakira Jamieson, Mikaela Powell and Amber Williams attended the ACC Para Fun Run at Jackadder Lake in Woodlands. A good time was had by all of the girls and the highlight of the day was the life size Snakes and Ladders game.

**Student News**

**Hockey**

Congratulations to Elyse Wilson (7.1) who has been selected to represent Western Australia in the 2013 State Hockey Team at the National Schools Championships in Canberra in August. We wish Elyse and State Hockey Team all the best.

**Gymnastics**

Congratulations to Kimberley Morrissey and Annabel Ridley (Year 10) who will represent WA in level 8 Artistic Gymnastics and Megan Hille (Year 8) who will represent WA in level 7. The three girls all train together at Starmites Gymnastics and will leave for Sydney on 13 July for 7 days. We wish them all the best.
Parents & Friends Association

Father/Daughter Camp

Dads and their daughters enjoyed a weekend of fun and challenging activities at the recent Father/Daughter camp at Forrest Edge Camp in Waroona.
Volunteer Auditor required
The P & F need the services of an Accountant with auditing experience as soon as possible. Please email jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au to advise the P & F of your availability.

Thank You to Parents

Year 11 & 12 Exam Supervision
Thank you to the following parents who assisted with Exam Supervision. Your help was greatly appreciated. Please remember to send in your Parking Receipts ASAP with your name on them, in order to get reimbursed.

Noticeboard

Mercy Care - Have Fun, Play Smart 2013 Adult Winter Program for culturally and linguistically diverse background, explore life themes with art, creativity, dance and music / Free / Tuesday 18, 25 June, 2, 9, 16, 23 July 2.00pm - 4.00pm and Thursday 20, 27 June, 4, 11, 18, 25 July 5.00pm - 7.00pm. Call 9344 2468 to register.

Real Teens Foundation - Break Free Now Empowering Teens Workshop. 29 and 30 June / The Rise Function Centre, Maylands / $297 per teen registered. For more information click HERE.

Relationships Australia
- Kids and Today’s Technology - two week course for parents with children between 2 - 18 years old / 14 & 21 August or 5 & 12 September / 6.30pm - 9.00pm / $35 per person or $50 per couple. For more information call 9489 6322 or visit www.wa.relationships.com.au.
- Raising Girls - a workshop for Dads. Tuesday 2 July / 27 The Crescent, Midland / 6.30pm-9.00pm / $25.00. Places are limited - to book call 9489 6322.