Key Dates

Sunday 19 May
Mercedes College Open Day
11.00am - 1.30pm

Monday 20 May
Year 9 Lightning Carnival

Tuesday 21 May
Year 7 Lightning Carnival

Wednesday 22 May
11.5 RE Mass
Year 8 Lightning Carnival

Thursday 23 May
College Photographs

Friday 24 May
Father/Daughter Camp (until 26 May)

Saturday 25 May
Year 10 Red Shield Appeal

Sunday 26 May
National Sorry Day

Wednesday 29 May
11.6 RE Mass

Thursday 9 May
Year 12 Career Mentors Breakfast
ACC Cross Country

Principal’s Report

I would like to warmly welcome back to Term 2 all the staff and students after what was a very busy Term 1. Term 2 is a shorter 9-week Term but also promises to be very busy. Mrs Sheena Barber has commenced her Long Service Leave and I wish her and her husband a wonderful and eventful time as they travel through different parts of Europe. In her absence I look forward to the challenge of Principalship. I am buoyed by the community support I have received so far.

During the holiday break I watched a very interesting episode of *Insight (SBS)* called *Violent Femmes*. The investigative discussion focussed on the increased level of aggression and violence been observed in Australian society. As reported “there has been an increase in violent offences committed by females, many of them aged 14-25. More females than ever before are being imprisoned for physical assaults and stories of young girls fighting are becoming more common”.

In my 12 years in this “all girls environment” I am pleased to report that I have not observed this trend reflected in society. This is not to say that other types of uncaring behaviour don’t present itself from time to time. The College has the responsibility to respond to issues of bullying, intimidation, isolation, language abuse and conflicts through social networking.

Our girls are very fortunate to have two outstanding role models to look up to as an example of womanhood – Mary and Catherine. The month of May offers Catholics a special opportunity to offer devotion and focus on Mary, the mother of God. Mary, a woman of purity, grace, integrity and spiritual values, embraced her own calling of motherhood.

A statement in our vision calls us to be inspired by the practical example of Catherine McAuley, and for our lives to be centred in God. This example demonstrates a life full of caring, compassion and empathy for others. One cannot associate Mary and Catherine with aggressive and violent behaviour. Our girls are fortunate to be in a culture that has the charism of Mary and Catherine.

The Triangular meetings last Tuesday were well attended and for most part there was a buzz of activity. Well documented educational research places “feedback” as the most important aspect of successful learning. Thank you to all the teachers and to the parents and students that made the special effort to attend.

**Insight from Catherine McAuley:**

*The only return God requires of us for all favours is a return of love.*

 Winners of the 2013 DramaDance Fest: McAuley and Serisier with their interpretation of Pinocchio.
Mission Leader’s Musings

In April of this year I was fortunate to be part of the Mercy Ethos Program in Dublin. I had heard many wonderful stories about this program from colleagues who had been involved in earlier programs. Having been involved in Mercy education for 25 years, I thought my knowledge of Catherine’s story was more than reasonable, however our founding story in the context of pilgrimage awakened many aspects of Mercy that I found enriching both on a personal and professional level.

Mary Reynolds rsm, Director at the Mercy International Centre, welcomed us warmly calling us pilgrims and reminding us ‘that a pilgrimage is a journey undertaken in light of a story’. What a journey and what an inspirational story.

As the week unfolded the story of Catherine McAuley and the early Sisters of Mercy came alive for each and every one of us: we explored Baggot St and walked in the footsteps of Catherine through the streets of Dublin to St Teresa’s and Georges Hill. A short journey on the bus took us to Coolock where the story of Catherine’s years with the Callaghans unfolded. Then came the journey to Glendalough where we were invited to explore the spirit of Mercy within, through a guided reflective walk in a truly spiritual place.

Irish Sisters, Jacinta Prunty chf, Dervilla Byrne rsm and Margaret Prendergast rsm were amongst a group of inspiring presenters who assisted us in exploring Catherine’s social, political and religious milieu, her approach to leadership and her lived experience of the rhythm between contemplation and action. These insightful sessions were facilitated beautifully by Carmel Crawford (Mercy Ethos Coordinator) and Annette Schneider rsm (Institute Leadership Team) who invited all participants to bring our own stories as Mercy leaders into dialogue with the history, heritage and contemporary expression of Mercy.

The final day included a session on Mercy in a Global Context raising our awareness of our place and responsibility in the global community. This session for me affirmed our Mercedes College focus on the global needs of the marginalised through our students fundraising efforts for Mercyworks, awareness raising campaigns regarding the plight of women and this year’s Mercy Day Kenya focus.

It was indeed a journey of the heart and mind undertaken in light of the inspirational story of Catherine McAuley and the rich heritage of Mercy. The story continues unfolding today through many women and men of Mercy and it is privilege to one of the story tellers...

Ms Rosa Speranza - Mission Leader

I had the pleasure of attending Drama Dance Festival on Saturday at the Octagon Theatre. This was the first time that these two Art forms have combined for an Interhouse competition. Also a first was the bringing together pairs of Houses to better use senior student leadership. It was an evening of great entertainment and congratulations go to the winning combination of McAuley and Serisier. Thank you to Mrs Kathleen Cocks , Ms Dhana White and all those that helped to make this an evening to remember.

Mr Chris Cole, Acting Principal

Open Day

Sunday 19 May 2013 / 11.00am to 1.30pm

Families are welcome to join us on Open Day. Come and see the exciting Sports and Learning Facilities, working Art display and Classroom and Library displays.
Pastoral Care News

Years 7/8 Learning Community

Year 7 - Ms Danae Murphy
I hope that everyone in the Year 7 community had an enjoyable and restful break. Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Triangular Meetings during Week 1. I trust that you found this to be a valuable opportunity to foster the relationship between student, parent and teacher. Please remember that you are welcome to contact classroom teachers if you have concerns about how your daughter is progressing in a particular subject. Recently a letter was sent home, notifying you about the Keeping Safe program, which students will commence this term. The students will continue the program during Term 3. As well as being interesting for the girls, I’m sure the program will be very useful for them. Please be aware that all Year 7 students will be participating in a lightning carnival on 21 May 2013. A letter was sent home with details of this event. I am looking forward to seeing the Year 7 students continue to grow and develop through this term as they become more accustomed to being high school students. The daily routine should hopefully be more familiar at this point in the year, however changes in friendship dynamics and managing academic demands can cause concerns for the girls. Please continue to keep dialogue open with your daughter and contact homeroom teachers or myself if you have any concerns.

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
The first dancing lesson caused great excitement last week, which indicated the beginning of a fun-filled dancing season. I was very impressed with both the behaviour and maturity of the girls. I remind parents that you should ensure make-up rules are re-enforced at home. Also that it is important that you are punctual in collecting your daughters. It is distressing for them if they are ‘forgotten’. They can of course catch public transport home, including the CAT bus.

You will soon receive a letter concerning clothing requirements for the social which has a 1950’s theme.

I thank all parents and girls who attended the launch of the Person Research Project last Thursday evening. Special thanks to Mr Brian Beare who spoke about the rationale behind the task and to Mrs Margaret Ryan who assisted me in serving afternoon tea to over 100 hungry girls. In Pastoral Care this week a Q&A session was held to clarify requirements to the girls. There is an expanded list of topics on Moodle in the Pastoral Care section and also displayed on the Year 9 level.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith

Year 10 students making the most of the interactive displays at the Careers’ Expo this week

Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
The girls have received the timetable for the Semester One examinations and the procedures associated with senior examinations was outlined during the pastoral care lesson this week. The team from Elevate Education conducted a study skills session with the girls at the commencement of the term to reinforce the techniques outlined during our seminar days at Notre Dame University, and to further develop their time management and study skills. I trust the girls will apply some of this knowledge to their exam preparation over the next few weeks.

Congratulations to all the Year 11 girls who were involved in the House Drama/Dance Festival. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to develop their talents and to work collaboratively with students across all year groups, with spectacular results.
Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
Congratulations to the girls who led their cast members in preparations for the Drama/Dance Festival that was held on the weekend. The high standard of the performances indicated that an enormous effort had been put into the writing, choreography, costuming and rehearsals and the Year 12 students involved must be very proud of themselves and their casts.

With the feedback students have received from their Interim Reports and from the Triangular meetings, all the girls are now very clear on the steps they need to take to consolidate or improve their results. The challenge will be to stick with their good intentions and make a consistent effort to work steadily on completing tasks and finding time to practise skills and revise material. Each student will find her teachers are very supportive and regular help is available in the Library after school or in the Maths focus room at lunchtime. Many teachers also correct practise essays and answers for girls who are willing to do this extra work, which is a great asset to those girls. Please encourage your daughters to both make use of this assistance and to be appreciative of the time teachers put into helping them outside class.

We had an energetic presentation from the staff at Elevate which was designed to provide strategies for improving exam preparation and performance. The girls were given many tips and completed notes in a work booklet so that they have reminders about what they must do. They are all very conscious of the approaching exams so should be working hard but also striving for a good balance of rest and exercise to remain healthy and focussed.

The Retreat letters have been distributed so please ensure that the completed forms are returned promptly. Please make sure that the cold, and possibly wet, weather conditions are foremost in your daughter’s mind when she packs so that all the students remain comfortable and healthy. Last year’s students found the Retreat a very rewarding experience and we look forward to this year’s group also appreciating this valuable time for reflection and prayer.

Curriculum News

Academic Services - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services
Year 11/12 Exams
Timetables and exam guidelines for the Year 11 and 12 exams have now been distributed to the students. It is now time for your daughter to begin the process of revising for these exams which begin on Tuesday 4 June and finish on Friday 14 June. If you have any queries about the exams, please contact the Deputy Principal of Academic Services Liana Strutt at lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au or phone 9323 1379.

Year 10 Exams begin on Monday 10 June and finish on Friday 14 June and will be completed during class time. A timetable will be issued in Week 3.

NAPLAN Testing
This week Year 7 and 9 students completed NAPLAN testing. This testing allows parents to see where their children are placed according to national benchmarks for literacy and numeracy, and allows schools to assess areas for improvement in these areas also. NAPLAN reports will be sent home in Term Three.

Year 10 Course Selection Evening
On Tuesday 4 June, Year 10 students and parents are to attend a Parent Information Evening for 2014 Year 11 Course Selection in the Hall starting at 7pm. We ask that parents and students attend to begin the process of preparing for course selection which will continue in Term 3.

General News

Psychologists - Ms Angela Coci
Would you like to know how to support the mental health of your daughter and other young people? Mercedes College is offering another Youth Mental Health First Aid course for parents on 10 and 11 June 2013. For full information, please click HERE and book your place by contacting Angela Coci at acoci@mercedes.wa.edu.au or 9323 1323. by Wednesday 5 June 2013.

Student Services - Mrs Lisa Saito
Absenteism
Please be reminded that if your daughter is absent (or late) from school, the school must be notified before 9am either by telephone (9323 1387) or email (studentservices@mercedes.wa.edu.au). An SMS will be sent to the student’s main contact’s mobile number at 9.30 am if we have not received notification on the day of the absence. A telephone call or SMS must be followed up with a note or email upon your daughter’s return to school. An email is sufficient if it includes the following:

- Student’s full name
- Homeroom
- Reason for absence
- Parent/Guardian’s full name (just sender’s email address is insufficient)

Thank you for your assistance and we hope your daughter(s) have a happy and healthy Term 2.
The Arts
DramaDance Fest 2013 - Mrs Kathleen Cocks & Miss Dhana White
On Saturday 11 May, at the Octagon Theatre UWA, Mercedes College displayed the amazing talent they have, at the 2013 DramaDance Fest. It has been a year of great change, first with the introduction of the two new houses and also the number of changes made to the Festival. Thank you to all those involved in making it a huge success. To the leaders and cast members, thank you for embracing the change so positively and producing a fantastic show. To the staff and parents that assisted, thank you, none of this is possible without all the work behind the scenes. Congratulations to McAuley/Serisier who won the shield with their interpretation of Pinocchio, closely followed by Frayne/Cooper with Peter Pan and McDonald/Wright with Anastasia. It was a very close competition with all performances of a very high standard. We look forward to the continued support of the College community in years to come.
Music - Mrs Claire Gamlin

Congratulations – USA Tour
The Wind Orchestra girls and String Ensemble girls have arrived back safely from the USA tour in April. The groups enjoyed great success over the two weeks and have come back with several trophies from the Heritage Music Festival, held in New York. A full article from the tour will be in the next edition of Sorelle.

Select Choir and Madrigals
Rehearsals with Trinity College choirs will be starting this term. The Select Choir will be rehearsing on Friday afternoons at Trinity College and Madrigals on Thursday mornings. Please note that the rehearsals will not be every week and a schedule will be provided at Select Choir rehearsal on Tuesday.

Diary Dates
Stage 2/3 Music Exams  Thursday 30 May
Trinity Middle School Music Night  Wind Ensemble: Friday 14 June
Trinity Senior School Music Night  Wind Orchestra, String Orchestra, Select Choir, Madrigals: Wednesday 26 June

NIDA Tour News - Mrs Kathleen Cocks and Ms Dhana White
Saturday 20 April saw 11 Year 11 and 12 Drama students fly to Sydney to participate in the NIDA Drama Tour with 50 other senior Drama students from WA.

Students undertook a week of workshops in voice, non-verbal communication, movement and playbuilding with several influential actors and directors, some of whom are themselves graduates from NIDA – one of Australia’s most prestigious acting training universities. At the end of the week, teachers were then entertained by the students’ thought provoking self-devised drama performances.

While in Sydney, we took the opportunity to see as much theatre as possible; The Sydney Comedy Festival at the Opera House, Frankenstein, War Horse and the Broadway hit The Addams Family.

Immersed in theatre and inspired by workshops, the girls have developed many new performance skills – just in time for their Practical Exams in a couple of weeks’ time!

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 Year 12 Careers Newsletter.

English - Mrs Catherine O’Toole
Year 10 and 11 classes enjoyed an entertaining morning with Actors at Work on Tuesday 14th. The group performed Such Sweet Sorrow, extracts from Romeo and Juliet, for the year 10 cohort. Students were encouraged to immerse themselves in the interactive experience, becoming part of the famous family feud. Later, Year 11 students delved into Macbeth: Undone to follow the story of Macbeth as he moved from ambition to destruction. Again, there was little doubt that the girls gained much from this contemporary commentary on the text and they impressed with their engagement and response.
Information Technology - Mr Des Loh
The Business and Information Technology Quiz was held in Week 10 of Term 1 over two lunch times. There were two categories - Year 7/8/9 and Year 10/11/12. Open to all students regardless of whether they were studying Business or Information Technology subjects and to encourage enthusiasm and collaboration, students were to make up a team of three to enter. All participants receive 3 House points while the winners receive 6 House points including a $10 canteen voucher each.

The Quiz was met with much enthusiasm and excitement. The questions ranged from generic to the more specific. Year 7/8/9 Category winners – from Year 7: Jade Mascarenhas and Mandy Truong (Cooper) and the Year 10/11/12 Category winners – Year 11: Amy Duong (Frayne) and Himanshi Satnani (Wright).

I would like to acknowledge the following teachers, Ms Alison Armstrong and Mrs Senika Gunawardena, for their help in making this event successful.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee
Mathematics Help
The following sources of mathematics help (outside class) is available to students:

- The Maths Focus Room (Room 18) - open during the 2nd half of lunch every day, with a maths teacher on duty to assist. Opening times are 1pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 12:40pm Wednesday and 1:20pm Thursday.
- Afterschool homework classes in the library on Monday to Thursday. A mathematics teacher is present at most sessions.
- Years 7 to 9 will be able to re-sit a majority of tests if they score below 65%. Details of the 'Repeating Assessments Policy' are on the College Moodle site (Mathematics section), and have also been given out in class.
- Years 7 to 10 will access to the Mathletics website (www.mathletics.com.au). This online resource includes lessons on a range of topics, interactive objects, questions which adjust the difficulty level to cater to the ability of the student, plus extension material. Login and password were distributed to students in Term 1. Students are encouraged to utilise this valuable learning resource to assist in their understanding of mathematical concepts and to practice basic number skills.
- Years 7 to 12 have access to the MyMaths website www.mymathsonline.com.au which contains additional resources to help improve their mathematical understanding. First level access is available to all members of the College community (login: merc / password: graph).
- Some teachers may use this site to set work. If they do, they will distribute an individual login and password to students which will give them access to specific tasks set by their teacher. Note: Even without this additional login, students have access to all resources contained within this site.
- For Parents and students interested in Maths tutors we keep a list of people available (this includes teachers from other schools and ex-students). Please access the College Moodle site (Mathematics section). It has also been placed on the 'Student_Common' drive, in the 'Mathematics' folder.

Issues, problems, queries
If you have any concerns, please contact your daughter’s mathematics teacher which can be resolved quickly.

Maths Week 2013
Maths week was held during the final week of Term 1. There were a variety of competitions and many students got involved – thank you to all students who participated. Winners will receive their movie ticket vouchers at the upcoming College assembly.

- On Monday 15 April was the House Pi recital competition (the winner being the student who could memorise and correctly state the most decimal places of Pi). The winner was Hannah O’Toole from McDonald (7.4) who correctly recited the first 157 decimal places of pi. Second place was Aloyse Murray from Wright (9.3) who recited 137 decimal places, and third was Abigail Moroney from McDonald (7.4) who recited 97 decimal places.
- Tuesday April 16 was the Numeracy Spelling Bee competition. First place went to Ella McMillan (8.1), second was Kathlyn del Rosario (9.4) and third was Sarah Coutinho 3rd place (10.2).
- Wednesday April 17 was the Speed Sudoku competition. In 1st place, with a time of 2 minutes 16 seconds was Emma Reid (9.2). In 2nd place, with a time of 3 minutes 9 seconds was Ashlee Culmsee (9.3). In 3rd place, with a time of 3 minutes 45 seconds was Claudia Lewis (10.2).
- Thursday April 18 was the Year 7 House Times Tables Grand Final. The competition featured 100 times tables questions in just 2 minutes. The semi final (involving all year 7 students) went up to the 12 times tables, however the grand final (the best 3 students from each house) extended to the 15 times table. The winner, with a score of 83 out of 100, from Wright, was Amruta Lakkoju. In 2nd place, with a score of 76 out of 100, also from McAuley, was Katrina Vu. In 3rd place, with a score of 75 out of 100, from McAuley, was Becky Ye. Congratulations to the other grand finalists: Tess Bowers, Natasha Geracitano, Melissa Hoang, Abigail Moroney, Nicole Nayar, Hannah O’Toole, Sarah Patman, Claudia Romeo, Mehak Satnani, Jasmine Serra, Ciara Sherry, Premajaa Shrestha, Hannah Skinner, Katrina Tran and Mandy Truong.
- The winners for the height vs age scatter-graph competition were Katie Dorman (11.4) in first place, Carine Lee (9.2) second and Mimi Seng (11.6) third.
- The winners for the lateral thinking competition were Claudia Romeo (7.2) in first place, Regina Yap (12.3) second and Emily Roberts (8.3) third.
Making Mercedes Greener - Shaye Guillory, Senior Steward and the MMG Committee

**Vertical Garden**

Fresh herbs from the vertical garden which was launched last term by the The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, have been used on a regular basis by the teachers and staff from the Home Economics Department and the Canteen. Our basil, coriander, parsley and other herbs are growing well. We hope to encourage students to assist with the maintenance of the garden by setting up a care roster. Environmental stewards have also been invited to create a maintenance leaflet to assist the volunteers who will take care of the garden. The garden was established with the support of the City of Perth.

**Seed Potatoes**

This year, we have joined the Western Potatoes “Seed for Schools” program. This as an exciting program which has provided a number of seed potatoes for planting. Mrs Roberts from Home Economics as well as staff from the Science Department have volunteered to assist with this program, which will encourage student learning with regards to plant propagation and growth. More details will follow.

**Plants for Homerooms**

In keeping with our Making Mercedes Greener initiative, students will grow a plant or plants in a recycled plant pot for Home Room. This will require donations of old plant containers and then the possible purchase of plants and soil. The recycled plant containers may be painted or decorated. Water wise indoor plants should be selected by the Home Room. We are asking students to donate $1 towards the plant for their Homeroom. This will be collected by environmental stewards during Home Room by Monday 27 May. This is another way to promote World Environment Day and further our cause towards better sustainability.

**Zero Waste Day**

We have received a large number of entries for the poster competition which will promote our “Zero Waste Lunch Day” due to be held on Wednesday 5 June as part of World Environment Day. Students will be encouraged to buy or bring their own lunch that day without any plastic or paper wrapping. A new initiative has been launched this term to promote a “Keep Cup” which will be sold at the canteen for $10 to encourage students, parents and staff to use recyclable cups. The Keep Cups can be used for soups, your favourite hot drink or water. The poster designs will be judged by the MMG committee and the winners will be announced this week.

Together as a committee we are very excited about these new initiatives and hope that as a community we can all get involved and pitch in.
Sport
Hockey - Ms Lorraine Brown
Training and games have commenced with much enthusiasm. Year 7/8 girls are undefeated after two weekends and our older teams are training hard and consolidating their skills ready for a winning season.

Trainings are now set, all being held on the school oval 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Year 7/8 Thursday, Year 9/10 Tuesday with a possible 15 minutes extra for those who can stay if waiting to be collected.

Please be at your games a good 30 minutes prior to the start time as we need to ensure that as the weather cools in the mornings you do a very thorough warm up to prevent injury. Park the car 45 mins before, put your shin pads on and mouthguard in, then a quick chat about your weekend! Ready to go 30 minutes prior! Good luck for the season.

Parents & Friends Association

Entertainment Books - Hurry and order your new Entertainment Book from Mercedes College as stocks are running out. The book is bigger than the 2012/13 book and filled with fantastic offers and savings. Cost is $65 per book and $13 from each book goes towards the Mercedes College P & F Fundraising efforts. Click HERE to order your Entertainment Book!

Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Stickers - Parents, if you shop at Woolworths, please remember to collect your Earn & Learn stickers and send them in to the College via your daughter. Last year Mercedes benefited from the program with a number of resources for the College. We are hoping with your support we can do the same again.

Highlights from the 2013 Fete
Thank You to Parents

Quite often Mercedes College parents are called upon to assist with a variety of events. Thank you to parents who have assisted us with the following events:


Trinity/Mercedes Year 7 Social - Toni Serra, Collette Power, Monica Lavery, Diana Toohey & Suzanne Biundo.

Drama/Dance Fest - Marissa Tilli, Suzanne Biundo, Kel Trickett, Martin Clifford and Emma Mchardie as well as all the parents of Choreographers, Directors and Producers.

Mothers’ Day Breakfast – This year was the second Mothers’ Day Breakfast hosted by the Mercedes Dads which was very well attended by mums and their daughters. Thank you to those who attended and to the following dads who made it a very special event. Kim Harris, Brian Cherry, Marc Brambillia, Mark Baxter, Gary Fernandez, Rudy Perone, Dean Davidson, Lyle Lavery, Dom Gonsalves and Gerry Clifford.

Noticeboard

Relationships Australia
Raising Teenage Girls - a workshop for Dads / Wednesday 22 May or Thursday 27 June / 6.30 - 9.00pm / $25 per person.

Kids and Today’s Technology - two week course for parents with children between 2 years and 18 years old / 5 & 12 June, 14 & 21 August or 5 & 12 September / 6.30pm - 9.00pm / $35 per person or $50 per couple. For more information on either of these courses please call 9489 6322 or visit www.wa.relationships.com.au.

St Mary’s Cathedral High Tea Fundraiser - Sunday 16th June 2013 / St Mary’s Cathedral Parish Centre / $50 per person. Proceeds go towards the educational materials for the orphanages in Brazil. To purchase tickets or for further information contact Tammy via email smccpps@yahoo.com.au or visit the Cathedral Piety Stall. Tickets must be purchase before Sunday 2 June.