Key Dates

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

Friday 28 June
ACC Para Indoor Soccer

Tuesday 2 July
Interhouse Athletics Carnival

Wednesday 3 July
10.3 RE Mass
Students conclude Term 2

Saturday 6 July
Southern Skies Tournament Group departs

Saturday 13 July
AMSSA Conference (until 16 July)

Sunday 14 July
Southern Skies Tournament Group returns

Monday 22 July
Term Three commences
Wellness Week
Frog Jog

Wednesday 24 July
10.4 RE Mass
Year 7/9/11 Susan McLean Visit

Friday 26 July
Catholic Performing Arts Opening Mass

Monday 29 July
Year 9 - Bishop’s RE Literacy Test

Wednesday 31 July
10.5 RE Mass

Principal’s Report

Is special project work a waste of time?

Mercedes College each year runs a special Group Work project for our Year 8 students and this year a Personal Project program has been introduced for our Year 9 students. Why is the College offering this style of Project work and is it a waste of time?

This is the third year that Year 8 students have abandoned their normal classes (except for options) for the final weeks of Term 2 to tackle a group work project titled: The shape we’re in and the shape of things to come. Students are engaged in a rich learning task in groups to provide them with a great opportunity to further develop their thinking and problem solving skills.

Working in specially assigned groups, students examined the City of Perth to develop a plan to work or the benefit of a local community (inside or outside the College) improving an aspect of the wellbeing of this community. They identify a need in the community for a new space or structure and prepare a design brief for it. From research and interviews with people in a community students are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the different influences and perspectives about the identity of a place.

Students involved in this learning opportunity are given a chance to apply higher order thinking skills (including the Habits of Mind) with a focus on critical and creative thinking; working collaboratively; developing interpersonal and self-management skills; selecting and adapting the relevant knowledge, skills and in order to offer a viable solution for the identified problem; demonstrating ICT skills to conduct and possibly present their proposal; demonstrating appropriate communication skills at the various stages of the project.

This group activity is based on an ever growing body of educational research about the value of these types of learning activities.

I recently attended a seminar presented for Catholic school leaders by world renowned educationalist Dr Yong Zhao. Dr Zhao’s presentations is based on the massive amount of evidence from a variety of sources he gathered for his new book World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial

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Insight from Catherine McAuley:

If we looked more to our suffering Lord, our trials would seem light, and consolation would soon come to our hearts.

Year 8 Group Work Walk
Mission Leader's Musings

Over the month of April 2013 almost 60 pilgrims journeyed to Baggot Street to immerse themselves in the historic and contemporary story of Mercy through the Mercy Ethos program, an initiative of ISMAPNG. Men and women, religious and lay from a variety of ministries: Heath and Aged Care, Education, Pastoral Services, Youth Ministry, Ecology and Justice, participated. They came from around Australia, from Papua New Guinea, from Newfoundland and from New Zealand. Mr Ian Barter and myself were very fortunate to join this very privileged group.

The content of the program, the hospitality at the Mercy International Centre, the passion of the facilitators and presenters, the attention to detail as well as the stimulating company and generosity of spirit of all involved in the group have provided opportunities for us to leave with a far greater understanding and a richer appreciation of the life and work of Catherine and the Sisters, Associates and Partners in Mercy throughout history.

We were indeed fortunate in walking where Catherine walked, listening to and reading extracts from some of her letters and poems. We discovered a woman, whose leadership and vision encompassed an immense drive and energy, and a dignity and sensitivity for those she cared for and worked with. She had a delightful sense of humour and above all a deep love and compassion for those who did not have the opportunity for justice in their lives – the poor and vulnerable.

We have been inspired to return to Mercedes College with renewed vigour and determination to seek opportunities to spread the word and encourage others to walk in the footsteps of these early women of Mercy. We have indeed been challenged with a great responsibility to continue the good work of the Sisters of Mercy all over the world, in our local community.

Students (Corwin, 2012) and his Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization (ASCD, 2009).

Yong Zhao focused on a model of education to prepare global, creative, and entrepreneurial talents that include: personalized curriculum/educational experience, product-oriented learning, and the globe as the campus. He presented evidence that the world needs creative and entrepreneurial talents who are globally competent to tackle the tough challenges facing human beings.

Dr Zhao attacks the use of tests such as NAPLAN, PISA and TIMMSS as indicators of education success. He used the example of China as dominating these tests for many years but as a nation still rates very poorly in producing entrepreneurs.

Dr Zhao emphasizes that schools should not be about providing students with employable skills but as a place where students have an opportunity to enhance their talents. Education environments should be ones that develop confidence, risk taking, creativity, passion, alertness to opportunity and collaboration.

I came away from that seminar quite reassured that the direction we are taking with project work is very consistent with modern educational principles and theory.

I am quite convinced that this style of project work is essential for us to fulfil our vision statement “Risk-taking is encouraged, success is rewarded and disappointment acknowledged. Our students are self-directed, critical thinkers who take ownership of their educational journey and persevere to achieve their personal best. The focus is on life-long learning that will provide the spiritual, social, physical and emotional development needed to achieve personal fulfilment beyond Mercedes.”

Project work is not a waste of time! Good luck to all our Year 9 students who have now begun their journey on a personal project that they will work on over a period of 12 months.

This will be my last opportunity to communicate with you all in the capacity of Principal. I have enjoyed the experience and thank all staff, students and parents for your support. We look forward to Mrs Sheena Barber returning from her leave to guide “the ship” in Term 3.

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.

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Pastoral Care News

Year 9/10 Learning Community
Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
Tonight (Thursday) is the culmination of a great dancing season, with the Rock and Roll Social. The fifties theme has caused great excitement with the girls and I look forward to a wonderful night. Many thanks to all Year 9 Pastoral Care Staff for your support throughout the term, in supervising the girls each Thursday. I especially thank Ms Brown and Mrs Marshall for their lunchtime assistance to so many girls who were finishing off their skirts. A full report will be in the first newsletter next term.

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith
Who can believe it is almost the end of Term 2, we have arrived at the half way point for the 2013 academic year. With the stress and tension of the exams over, the Year 10 cohort move their attention to subject selections for their upper school studies. The PTO booking system will soon be made available and I encourage every family to take the opportunity to make an appointment with Mrs Liana Strutt and Ms Cheryl Alach to discuss future pathways for your daughters.
Good luck to all the girls competing in the upcoming Interhouse Athletics Carnival. Safe travels to the girls travelling to Brisbane for the Southern Skies Competition. Best wishes to Isabella Norrish and Ciara Harrison for the AMSSA Conference in New Zealand, I know you will represent yourselves and Mercedes College proudly.

Year 11/12 Learning Community
Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
The Year 11 girls have returned from study leave and have received their examination and course grades. The semester reports are in the process of being compiled and will hopefully reflect a successful and rewarding start to senior studies. Many girls are also to be congratulated on their contribution to the many co-curricular activities offered by the College. This can be a challenging time for some students, however, and they are encouraged to seek advice from Mrs Strutt and Mrs Alach to review their course, prior to selecting their subjects for Year 12. We wish the girls and their families a relaxing holiday.

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
The last few weeks have been very busy for the Year 12 students with the First Semester exams being completed and then the New Norcia Retreat. These exams should serve as a guide to each student about how successfully she is studying during the semester and how thoroughly she is preparing for major tests of what has been learnt. If the results for particular subjects have not been as good as a student hoped, now is the time to discuss what she needs to change about her approach to work.
The retreat was a rewarding experience for the girls, who all appreciated the opportunity to reflect on their life journey thus far and their hopes for the future. It was also a great chance to relax and bond with their peers and to interact with staff in a different environment. Many of the girls have expressed their gratitude to the staff who gave up their time to ensure that they had this experience.
The coming holidays should be an opportunity to recharge energy levels but also to ensure that every student is ready to tackle the next semester’s work. Each subject would have some areas that would be easier to tackle if some pre-reading is completed so girls who want to improve their chances of success next term will need to do a little extra work this holidays.
Year 12 Retreat highlights

Psychologists
There is a new social networking site, ask.fm, that has been gaining popularity and parents are urged to speak to their children about their use of this site. It is a website in which users are able to post anonymous questions and comments to other users, and as such, there are many concerns around its potential for cyber bullying. If your daughter does use this website, Netsafe have recommended “that all young people prevent anonymous questions being posted. This can be done by pressing ‘Settings’ - ‘Privacy’ and choosing ‘Do not allow anonymous questions’.” Netsafe also says that it’s possible to block any user who is harassing you. Please monitor your daughter’s use, including what she writes on other people’s sites, and have access to her password in case there are any issues. For more information on how you can keep your child safe online, please visit http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/parents.aspx.

Curriculum News

English - Ms Catherine O'Toole
Year 10 English
On Friday 21 June, Year 10 English students enjoyed a visit from Australian author Sue Whiting. Sue spoke to the girls about the inspiration for her writing and stressed the importance of editing and refinement when writing a narrative. The girls were thoroughly engaged in her presentation and many could not wait to get their hands on her books. We thank Sue for giving up her time to talk to the girls.
Year 12 Stage 2 and 3 Literature and English
On Monday 1 July all English/Literature WACE course students will be attending the Curtin University English/Literature Conference. Girls will need to make their own way to and from Curtin and must be at the designated meeting point at the Elizabeth Jolley theatre at 8.45am. The day will conclude at 3.15pm and students are required to have their names ticked off by their teachers before departing. Parents are requested to phone the College as early as possible on the morning of 1 July, if a student is absent.

Information Technology - Mr Des Loh
Year 9 Multimedia Information Technology Excursion
This term, the Year 9 Multimedia Information Technology students have been developing skills in creating vector graphics using Adobe Illustrator. They are currently engaged in designing their own anime inspired character.

An excursion was organised to a graphic designing studio, Kudos Creative in the heart of Northbridge where the Director gave a presentation about brand exposure, creative design and the designing process.

The excursion provided students with an insight into graphic designing and provided some knowledge so that they can incorporate it into their coursework and assessment task.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee
Moodle Page – Assessment and Solutions Storage
The mathematics department is in the process of storing tests and exams (and their solutions) in a digital form on the maths moodle page. The intention is to provide this resource for student revision so they can practice questions where they have experienced difficulty. All students have access to this page – it is the “pi” logo on the opening page (under “Learning Areas”). To access from home, students need to get to the following URL: http://moodle.mercedes.wa.edu.au.

Note, students need to have logged onto Moodle from school (at least once) prior to logging on from home.

Year 8 Streaming
Please be aware that Year 8 mathematics classes will be streamed as of Week 9 of Term 2. The streaming is based on the last year and a half’s assessment data, and will provide the teacher with a greater scope to provide access to the Australian Curriculum at a level which is appropriate to the individual student. We have formed two extended, two general, one general applied and one modified class. Your daughter will have received a letter in homeroom on Monday 23 June explaining which class she will be in and who her teacher is. There is no requirement for any new equipment.

Note that streamed class data is analysed every semester to ensure that students have been placed in the appropriate class. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact either myself or your daughter’s mathematics teacher.

Year 10 Subject Selection
Following semester one exams, Year 10 mathematics teachers will process the semester one data with the intention of giving subject selection advice. This is provided in an effort to ensure that students select a maths subject with the appropriate level of challenge, whilst not over-burdening the student. The subject selection advice letter will be sent home with the reports. If you have any queries regarding subject selection, do not hesitate to contact your daughter’s mathematics teacher.

Year 11 Subject Selection
Like Year 10 students, Year 11 students will also soon be called upon to select their year 12 subjects. Mathematics is very different to a majority of other subjects, in that repeating units from Year 11 to Year 12 is possible (and sometimes advantageous). Our general rule is that students who have performed well in their Year 11 studies (A and strong B grades) should select the successive unit pair. Those who have struggled (low B and below) are encouraged to repeat (where possible). Repeating is definitely possible for MAT 3AB and MAT 2CD – it is theoretically possible for MAT 2AB if there are sufficient numbers to form a Year 12 class. There is no penalty applied for repeating, however a student is only permitted to count the grades they achieve once towards their C grade average. This subject selection advice letter will be sent home with the semester one reports. Please contact your daughter’s teacher if you have any queries or concerns.

Australian Informatics Competition (AIC)
Congratulations to the students who took part in the AIC. In particular, well done to Amruta Lakkoju who achieved a Credit. Certificates will be presented when they arrive. Well done.

General News
Train Shutdowns and Perth Station Layout Changes
There will be two major shutdowns to the Perth Station and Perth Underground Station. The shutdowns will impact all train lines in some way. Apart from the Fremantle Line (where train replacement buses will be operating the entire length of the line) all train lines will be running as close to the city as possible.

- **Shutdown 1:** from 7pm on Friday 12 July until the last service on Wednesday 17 July
- **Shutdown 2:** from 2.30pm Wednesday 31 July to the last service on Sunday 4 August. **Please be aware that this shutdown takes place during Week 2 of Term 3.**

For more detailed information please refer to [Train Shutdown Notice](http://moodle.mercedes.wa.edu.au) on the College website.
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.

da Vinci Decathlon - Mrs Kristie Sadowski
In the fast-paced world of today – and more so in the future – team work, multiple intelligences and, in particular, creativity, will be vital in providing solutions and paving the way for an exciting and sustainable environment. This is one of the reasons Mercedes College participates in the da Vinci Decathlon.

Recently students had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities – from maths, philosophy, drama, engineering, art and poetry, to strategy games - all designed to challenge not only a person’s IQ and EQ, but also what is now very important in our society – CQ – their creative quotient.

Students were selected to try out for a place in the junior and senior teams being entered into this year’s competition. They attended group training sessions and completed private preparation at home. The junior team consisted of Year 8 students, Sophie Bottega, Emily Zimmermann, Sascha Coates, Vanessa Tenaglia, Ella Parker, Ellen O’Hara, Brianna Lim and Elizabeth Harvey. The team worked cooperatively and creatively through the ten different categories and finished 12th out of a total of 28 schools, a very impressive effort! The senior team which comprised of Year 9 and 10 students; Catherine Eaton, Annabel Haizer, Catherine O’Donoghue, Isabella Rossaro, Isabelle Lewis, Genevieve Mascarenhas, Melanie Hall and Talei Cuenca, finished 9th out of fourteen participating schools. They receive a special mention for coming third in Code Breaking and forth in Cartography.

These students proudly represented the College and we congratulate them on their efforts.

Making Mercedes Greener (MMG) - Mrs Marg Ryan
Seed Potatoes
Our first seed potatoes have sprouted and are thriving. Thanks to Mrs Roberts and her students from her CFC class who have set up a vegetable and herb garden.

Plants for Homerooms
Homerooms have collected money and ordered indoor plants for Homerooms. During Wellness Week at the beginning of next term, environmental stewards will be selecting their plant and re-potting the plant in a recycled pot and base. The planting will take place at lunchtime on Wednesday, 24 July near M7.

The MMG Committee have some other initiatives in the planning stage and we will keep you posted on our progress. Thanks for your support.

Music - Ms Claire Gamlin
Congratulations
To the Mercedes/Trinity Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Chorale and Select Choir who performed at Trinity’s recent Middle School and Senior School Music Nights. For many of the Wind Ensemble girls, this was their first performance in the Wind Ensemble and they were a wonderful closing item for the performance on Friday 14 June. The Mercedes/Trinity Wind and String Orchestras performed last night, and are sounding great since arriving back from the USA earlier this term. The Mercedes/Trinity Chorale gave a wonderful performance of their new music, the moving “Us” and the quirky “Big White Duck” from Across the Dark by Australian Composer Ben Van Tienan.

Select Choir
Mercedes/Trinity Vocal Ensemble will rehearse this week, 3.45pm – 5.00pm at Trinity on Friday. Combined Mercedes/Trinity Chorale rehearsals have been going well. Thank you to the girls who have been attending, and to the parents for accommodating these rehearsals. There will be no rehearsal this week, however re-commencing week 1 next term.
Catholic Performing Arts Festival
The dates for performances have just arrived! Have a look at the diary dates below. Solo/duet performers will receive their information separately and are encouraged to book an accompanist (if required) as soon as possible. The music staff can offer suggestions if you don’t have a regular accompanist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diary Dates</th>
<th>Performances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30 July (morning)</td>
<td>Flute Ensemble and Saxophone Ensemble Don Russell Performing Arts Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30 July (evening)</td>
<td>Select Choir, MT Vocal Ensemble Liturgical &amp; Sacred Music Section of Catholic Performing Arts Festival at Mercy College, Koondoola</td>
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<td>Monday 5 August (afternoon)</td>
<td>String Orchestra (with Ms Litis) String Group Section of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival at Don Russell PAC, Thornlie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 August</td>
<td>String Orchestra (with Ms Litis) ABODA Band Festival approximately 11am at Churchlands Senior High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 August (afternoon)</td>
<td>Jazz Band WA School Jazz Band Festival, approximately mid/late afternoon at John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, Mirrabooka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 August (morning)</td>
<td>Wind Orchestra ABODA Band Festival approximately 10am at Churchlands Senior High School (please note venue change from previous years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 August (evening)</td>
<td>Wind Ensemble (Mr Waterhouse) and Wind Orchestra (Ms Gamlin) Concert Band Section of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival at Sacred Heart College, Sorrento</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 29 August (evening)</td>
<td>Select Choir, Madrigals, MT Chorale, MT Vocal Ensemble Secondary Choir Section of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival at Trinity College, East Perth</td>
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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 1 July 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. Girls in Wind Ensemble, Wind Orchestra, String Ensemble and String Orchestra will be required to bring their instrument for the photos. Year 12 girls will be picked up from Curtin University but must organise their instrument and photo dress requirements as we will be going straight to Trinity.

Cancelled Rehearsals
Choir, String Ensemble and Rock Band – the rehearsals scheduled for July 1 (Monday) are cancelled due to the Trinity/Mercedes photos that afternoon.
McAuley and Serisier House Liturgies

McAuley gathered on Thursday morning to honour Catherine McAuley and pay tribute to people of Mercy in our own lives. The House Choir sung ‘Catherine’s Call’ beautifully and Sr Breda gave a special Mercy blessing. I said a few quiet prayers for victory at next Tuesday’s Interhouse Athletics Carnival (Mrs Leanne Davis). Serisier also celebrated their liturgy based on the house motto of Truth.

Student News

Mercedes Netball Club - Committee
On behalf of Mercedes Netball Club we would like to congratulate Fiona Harvey on her appointment as President. Fiona was welcomed into the club last year as a committee member and we are sure she will provide unconditional support to the club in many ways. We would like to say a big thank you to Michelle, who has worked tirelessly as President for many years. Her work in building the club for the Mercedes students has been time consuming and challenging, juggling full time work and the club. Without her persistence our girls would not have been able to play netball with their fellow classmates. Michelle will be in a new role of Vice President and guide Fiona.

Noticeboard

Catholic Education Office - “Preparing for Life After School” / open to all parents of students with disabilities and other difficulties in Catholic secondary colleges. Tuesday 30 July / 6.00pm - 8.00pm / The Brother Patrick Forum, St Norbet College. RSVP, Christine Williams williams.christine@ceo.wa.edu.au.

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.

Parenting Conference - featuring two nationally recognised speakers that will focus on topics for parents of children of all ages. Friday 16 August / $20 / Tranby College / Click HERE for more information

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.