Key Dates
Friday 30 August
Athletics Camp (until 31 August)

Tuesday 3 September
Year 7 Social with Trinity College
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 4 September
8.1 RE Mass
MESA Meeting 6.15pm

Thursday 5 September
Year 8 Social with Trinity College
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 10 September
Parents and Friends Meeting 6.30pm

Wednesday 11 September
8.2 RE Mass
House Film Festival Screening / Cygnet Cinema 7pm

Principal’s Report

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

I would like to dedicate some lines this fortnight to our parents. At our recent Parents and Friends meeting there was a discussion about how to raise the profile of the P&F and make our parents more aware of all the support the group provides to the College. I felt the Committee’s frustration, considering we had just had to postpone the P&F sponsored Quiz Night due to poor numbers. We concluded that a combination of cold, wintry weather and the busy-ness of the College community in recent weeks due to the Catholic Performing Arts Festival, the Production and winter Sport, has caused families to just want to spend time at home. As the conversation continued we all agreed that Mercedes College is blessed with an amazing parent community. The involvement of the different Friends groups, plus the Dads of Mercedes and the evolving Mums of Mercedes, has been overwhelming and whilst much credit has to go to Jackie Stacey, our Parent Liaison Officer, I know that when parents, staff and students all work together to create an open and caring environment, there is a single mindedness to encourage all students to practise positive school habits.

We have a very small yet very generous and committed group of parents who gather each month for the P&F meetings. I love the meetings and the conversations we have. These parents know their daughters better than anyone and, when shared, this knowledge can be an invaluable resource in the progress of children’s education. They are my sounding board for initiatives we, as staff, and the girls, are wanting to introduce. Most importantly the P&F has been instrumental in providing so many resources to enhance the learning and teaching environment in the College - from interactive whiteboards, multi-media projectors, desks and chairs and lockers, to new sewing machines for the Materials, Design and Technology girls and new barbecues and china and cutlery for community events. The P&F has committed to providing all the loose furniture for the refurbishment of St Joseph’s - a huge undertaking. These things make a significant difference to the College budget and the Staff and students are indebted to the vision of the committee.

You as parents contribute to these things through the P&F levy you pay each year. In addition, when the P&F host an event, be it the bi-annual Fete or the Wine Raffle for example, parents come in droves to support and to work
Mission Leader’s Musings

I am particularly fond of the writings of Joan Chittister and read recently about the importance of recognising and honoring our giftedness. In this climate of positivity and our acknowledgement that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, it is important to encourage our students to be mindful of their many gifts and be grateful!

To know our gifts is to know our role in life. We are what we are. But the gift of self unfolds as we go, often slowly, always with surprise. It can take years before it becomes clear—the real gift that is hidden within us. Finding the gifts that God has given you takes courage; it takes risk; it takes exploration; it takes failure as we stumble from one arena to the other. But in the end what I get back is the wholeness of myself. The only question is whether we spend it on others or only on ourselves.

It is learning that the gifts we have been given are given for the rest of the human community that makes us more human!

Taken from: The gift in our hand by Joan Chittister

"Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ms Rosa Speranza - Mission Leader

together in a positive and creative way. I feel very blessed and privileged to work amongst such a generous, confirming and obliging community. So I say a huge thank you to our small band of P&F committee members, to all the Friends groups, Mums, Dads and even grandparents, who support our staff and young women. Already, the P&F are planning for the Quiz Night on 8 November, so please put the date in your calendars now! Also, there is lots of conversation about guest speakers for parent nights for next year so keep a look out for those opportunities too. 2014 is shaping up to be an even bigger year for parents and, believe me, your daughters love having you around and involved.

Today we welcomed many of our dads in to have breakfast with their daughters to celebrate Father’s Day on Sunday. I hope all our dads and granddads have a wonderful Father’s Day and enjoy being spoiled.

I know the word ‘resiliency’ has become almost overused today, referring to so many broad issues related to how young people cope rather than specifics. Michael Grose, Parenting Educator, talks about the language of resilient families. He says that children and adults in resilient families tune into the needs of each other and develop their own words and phrases to help each other get through the inevitable tough times that each person experiences. He gives ten examples of the language of resilience and I will quote these over the next editions of Sorelle.

1. “Come on, laugh it off.” Humour is a great coping strategy and a powerful tool for resilience. It is a fantastic way to release stress and handle feelings of helplessness. As a parent you may need to lighten up tense situations by introducing humour of your own, which is something that many dads do really well. (Insights No 1, Michael Grose)

Finally, we have the Federal Election coming up on 7 September, and the outcome of this election will no doubt have a huge influence on education policy. The Director of Catholic Education, Dr Tim McDonald, has been actively lobbying and submitting an Issues Paper to the Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations (DEEWR) and the Federal Minister for School Education, highlighting the key issues faced by the WA Catholic Education System under the new Better Schools Plan. Two fact sheets from the Director can be accessed below. It is crucial that we are informed. Please take the time to read them.

Catholic Education Fact Sheet A
Catholic Education Fact Sheet B

Peace and best wishes

Sheena Barber, Principal
Pastoral Care News

Year 9/10 Learning Community
Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams
The girls know that their Peer Mentor Applications must be submitted by Monday 2 September. No extension will be given. Full details are in the Year 9 Pastoral Care section on Moodle. I hope that those girls who are applying have discussed their application with their parents.

I have been very impressed with the reverence shown by the girls at their class masses, the last of which was celebrated this week. Well done to all on your attendance, preparation and interest in your class liturgical celebration. I thank the Year 9 RE teachers for their preparation of the liturgies.

Year 11/12 Learning Community
Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
A large number of girls have nominated to serve on the Prefect Council for next year and many thoughtful submissions have been received. I would like to thank the girls for their efforts in preparing these reflections on leadership in the context of our Mercy ethos. The election process will be completed this week in the pastoral care lesson and we all look forward to the announcement of the Prefect Council on Mercy Day.

The selection of subjects for Year 12 has commenced and forms need to be submitted by the end of this week. It is important that the forms have been signed by the student and their parents. Girls who wish to review their course have been asked to seek advice from Mrs Strutt or Mrs Alach before submitting their subject selection form.

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
In a pleasant break from routine, MESA (Mercedes Ex-Students’ Association) provided the students with a lunch of burgers, cake and fruit and invited two ex-students to talk to the girls about the benefits of joining the Association. The Association also launched its request for the girls to nominate a peer for the MESA award for the graduating student who most embodies the Mercy values. I hope that many of the girls will take this opportunity to recognise their peers. Also, nomination forms for Mercedes Medallists and for the Advisory Board’s Medal for Outstanding Teacher have been distributed. Forms can also be obtained from Moodle.

Time is rapidly passing so please ensure that your daughter does not miss the remaining valuable teaching time with her teachers. Your daughter’s teachers are her best resource as she completes her final assessments and prepares for the major exams ahead.

Many teachers are offering additional help in sessions before and after school and lunchtime. As I move around the Year 12 area, I am constantly impressed by the dedication our staff show towards their students and I am sure that the girls are appreciative of this help.
Curriculum News

Year 9 Business
IL Gelato Excursion - Olivia Bozich (9.1)
On Tuesday August 13, Year 9 Business students ventured to the IL Gelato factory in Osborne Park as a part of our Marketing topic this term. Lisa Calabro, the owner/manager of IL Gelato, talked to us about their world-class and unique gelato. They show support for the WA farmers by using local dairy products. They also use other unique ingredients imported from Italy. Lisa discussed how they came up with the brand packaging of their products and why the same colours and symbols/logos are used throughout all of their products. The colour choice for their retail store was also a very important consideration. We discussed the different approaches to their advertising campaigns. We also examined IL Gelato’s reasons in changing from a retail store to a wholesaler during the Global Financial Crisis.

The best part of the day was getting a tour of the factory and then being able to sample some of the many products — including the mini cones (piccolos) and a scoop of ‘Mascarpone and Fig’. Yum! The excursion was a great educational experience that we all enjoyed thoroughly. We would all definitely return again in a heartbeat. Special Thanks to: Mrs Davis, Mr Pauley, Mrs Gunawardena and Mr Green

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, HOLA Mathematics
Casio Classpad Incursion with Charlie Watson (Year 11 and 12)
On Friday September 6, Charlie Watson (expert in the use of the Casio Classpad) will be running sessions with students from selected Year 11 and 12 classes (Level 2CD mathematics and above). These sessions will focus on tips and tricks which will enable the students to use their calculator more efficiently (particularly in the lead-up to final exams). The $10 payment for these sessions was collected earlier in the year from those who wished to attend. Exact timing will be given to students by their mathematics teachers.

Year 8 Society & Environment - Mr Tim Poga
Japanese Culture
Students in Year 8 Society & Environment have been examining the values, norms, institutions and artefacts found in Japanese culture over the last five weeks.

In this photo students from 8.5 model masks they created to represent the ‘Keshō’ or facial makeup worn by Kabuki actors. The ‘kumadori’ or bright paint lines enhance or exaggerate facial lines to produce dramatic masks. The colour of the kumadori is an expression of the character's nature: red lines are used to indicate passion, heroism, righteousness, and other positive traits; blue or black, villainy, jealousy, and other negative traits; green, the supernatural; and purple indicates nobility.
General News

Accounting and Finance
WA Accounting Student Challenge 2013 - Mrs Senika Gunawardena
On Tuesday 6 August, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Western Australia held its 2013 Accounting Student Challenge.

The challenge, which is sponsored by Curtin Business School and supported by Business Educators of WA, is open to the top seven Year 12 Accounting and Finance students from each school. It is designed to give students an edge with exam preparation as well as provide them with the opportunity to engage in one of five group case studies to improve their understanding of the curriculum.

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Art Exhibition - Ms Andrea Hosking

“Say Cheese”
Mercedes College Art Exhibition
20 September 2013, 6.30pm Serisier Learning Centre

You are warmly invited to “Say Cheese”, an exhibition of artworks by Mercedes College art students 2013. Every student that studies Art will have a piece in the exhibition. All family and friends welcome. The Opening night is on Friday, 20 September 6.30pm, Serisier Learning Centre, Mercedes College.

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Some of the artwork that will feature at the Art Exhibition (Top) Juliette Long (8.1); (Bottom L to R) Caitlin Gerken (10.5), Chloe Thexeira (8.4), Claudia Lewis (10.2) and Isabelle Lewis (10.4).
House Film Festival - Miss Nilar Nyunt, Media Coordinator
The annual House Film Festival will be held on Wednesday 11 September, Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start / Cygnet Cinema, Como / Tickets $17 - booking forms available from Student Services or the Media Room.

House Knitting Club - Mrs Sonya Roberts
A new House initiative: Knit for the Needy, began on Monday 5 August. With the number of homeless people in Western Australia growing each year it is our aim for the Mercedes Houses (Cooper, Frayne, McAuley, McDonald, Serisier and Wright) to knit blankets for those in our community without a roof over their head. Lunchtime meetings are held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Catherine’s Garden and students can use this activity to go toward Co-Curricular hours and House points. Dimensions of the Knitted Square: 40 stitches of garter stitch until knitting is a square / Requirements: 4.0mm needles and 8ply acrylic wool in the Mercedes House colours.

Languages
Welcoming a French language assistant is a rewarding experience. It gives you the perfect opportunity to learn about another culture combined with promoting our Australian lifestyle whilst developing new friendships! If you have a genuine interest in other cultures you may like to share the hosting of 21 year old Prisca from France who arrives into Perth late January 2014 for Semester One. Please register your interest with Mrs Angela Velletri or Ms Marie Noelle Vieira on 9323 1323 or mvieira@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

Music - Ms Claire Gamlin, Music Coordinator
Congratulations
Continuing our wonderful success in Term 3, the Mercedes/Trinity String Orchestra has been invited to perform in the Instrumental Shield Playoffs on Friday 30 August. This means they were the top performing string group in the festival and are now competing for the overall instrumental Shield, against the top woodwind, brass, percussion and guitar ensembles. We wish them luck!

Almost two weekends ago now, the Mercedes/Trinity Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra performed in the ABODA festival at Churchlands. The Wind Ensemble received an award of ‘Excellent’ in C division, their first year in the festival. This is a wonderful achievement! The Wind Orchestra received an award of ‘Outstanding’ in A division, again, wonderful news. Well done to all girls (and boys) involved in these performances!

Music Showcase—Saturday 14 September
The Annual Mercedes Music Showcase is fast approaching. Please make a note that it is a Saturday night performance, as previously we have held this concert on a Sunday evening. All of the instrumental ensembles will be performing, including: Choir, Flute Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Band, Jazz Quartet, Mercedes/Trinity Chorale, Mercedes/Trinity String Ensemble, Mercedes/Trinity String Orchestra, Mercedes/Trinity Wind Ensemble, Mercedes/Trinity Wind Orchestra, Mercedes/Trinity Vocal Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Rock Band, Saxophone Ensemble, Senior Percussion Ensemble and Select Choir.

Tickets are available through the Music department and must be preordered, $15 for adults, $10 for concession and $40 for families (2+2). Seating is allocated at tables, in a ‘Cabaret’ style. Families may BYO food and drink. Tickets will be delivered to homerooms the week before the concert (9 – 13 September).

All girls are required for a rehearsal during the day and may wear appropriate casual clothes. They can bring a snack for dinner and their concert wear to get changed into after the rehearsals (please have them check that they have everything they need, and that it all fits!). Please ensure your daughter attends all rehearsals leading up to this very important performance! We look forward to seeing you there.
Diary Dates
Thursday 29 August (evening)       Select Choir, Madrigals, MT Chorale, MT Vocal Ensemble  Secondary Choir Section of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival at Trinity College, East Perth
Thursday 12 September
Saturday 14 September  Year 12 Mock Performance Exams
Select Choir Mercedes/Trinity Chorale Rehearsals
The girls have received a note with all additional rehearsals for Term 3. Please make sure you make every effort to attend these rehearsals, as we would like to have a new piece ready for Presentation Night, and possibly Music Showcase!

Making Mercedes Greener - Mrs Marg Ryan, MMG Coordinator
Year 12 students Sarah Harders, Maddie King, Melanie Trevanen and Sian Rogerson were instrumental in the process of applying for a Waste Wise Schools grant. In order to become an accredited Waste Wise schools, it was a requirement to write a Waste Wise school policy, complete a waste audit and design a Waste Wise plan. As a result of their research and the work of the MMG Committee, Mercedes College has received a grant of $2,200 to construct a compost centre on the College campus. In the near future we will be seeking volunteers and support from the Mercedes College community to plan and assist with this exciting new initiative.

Sport
Inclusive Sports Indoor Soccer - Mrs Kristie Sadowski
Last Friday eight Mercedes girls participated in the Inclusive Sports Indoor Soccer Day. Ten schools from the metropolitan area were involved in the Competition. The team was lead by their Captain Emma-Louise Doesburg and they won three out of the five games played throughout the day. The girls’ efforts were rewarded as they received an overall ranking of third in the competition.

Middle School Badminton (Year 9/10) - Mr Greg Smith, HOLA Health and Physical Education
On Friday 23 August, twelve Year 9 and 10 students represented the College in the Badminton WA Schools Tournament at Kingsway International Sports Stadium.

The tournament was played in three separate groupings and involved a round robin doubles competition, with each game played to 30 points. Each group had 6 pairs playing each other with the objective to be the winner of their group. The winner of each group then progressed to a semi-final playoff against other group winners.
At the conclusion of the round robin one pair Claudia Lewis and Natasha Bengura, were undefeated in their pool and therefore played in the semi-finals. Although they lost, it was a wonderful effort to reach the semi-final.

Well done to the following team members who participated in the tournament:

**Year 9:** Kate Martin, Matilda Norrish

**Year 10:** Natasha Bengura, Tami Corkran, Luissa Fabriziani, Nicola Hynes, Alicia Jong, Claudia Lewis, Sofia Locantro, Ruby Martin, Georgia Sivwright, Aleshia Sleight

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**Parents & Friends Association**

**Dads & Daughters Ten Pin Bowling - AMF Bowling, Walter Road; MORLEY / Sunday 8 September / 2pm for a 2.30pm start / $25 per person.** To follow on from the success of the recent Dads & Daughters Lawn Bowls, the DOM Group have decided to organise a Dads and Daughters Ten Pin Bowling afternoon. A booking form will be emailed to all families. Please complete and send in with your payment (cash or *cheque made payable to AMF Bowling Australia*). Numbers must be finalised by Monday 26 August. For more information or to make a booking email jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au.
**Noticeboard**


**Cook Islands Cricket** - Festival of Cricket / January 2014. Register teams to compete in one of five tournaments. For more information click [HERE](http://www.alphamodels.com.au).

**Corpus Christi College** - 30th Anniversary Celebration / Corpus Christi College - David Heath Centre / Saturday 5 October / 7pm - 12am / $75 per head. For more information call 9332 2571 or email [communications@corpus.wa.edu.au](mailto:communications@corpus.wa.edu.au).

**Ern Halliday Holiday Program** - Day programs: 2/3 October, 9 - 14 years, $65. Overnight Camps: 9 - 10 October, 9 - 11 years, $175 or 9 - 11 October, 12 - 14 years $275. For more information contact Debbie Courtney 9492 9779 or email debbie.courtney@dsr.wa.gov.au.

**Inglewood Little Athletics Registration Day** - Saturday 7 September / 10am - 1pm / Dianella Reserve No3 (Cnr Morley Drive and Alexander Drive) Morley. Cost: $165 per child (Discounts apply to two or more children from the same family) No EFTPOS available. Please bring your child/rens birth certificate for proof of age. Contact Esther Armneti (0423 106 339) for further information or if you have any queries.

**La Salle College** - 60th Anniversary Memories. If you are a past student or parent of La Salle (De La Salle) College and would like to be part of a short film, commemorating the life of the College for the upcoming 60th Anniversary in 2014, contact Ms Danielle Calleja on dca@lasalle.wa.edu.au.

**Relationships Australia** - Raising Teenage Girls: a workshop for Dads / Thursday 19 September / 6.30pm - 9.00pm / $25 per person / 1 Ord Street, Fremantle. For further information or to book call 9489 6322 or visit [www.wa.relationships.com.au](http://www.wa.relationships.com.au).

**St Columba’s Quiz Night** - 30 August / 7.30pm / Wellington Room, Morley Recreation Centre / Tickets $15 each, sold in groups of eight. Drinks for sale, BYO food and glassware. For more information contact Verity 0413 038 103 or Steph 0412 252 221.

**The Centre for Attitudinal Healing** - Beating the Black Dog: A practical and uplifting workshop to overcome anxiety and depression. Sunday 22 September / Serpentine Retreat Centre, 48 Lewis Road; Serpentine / $50 per head - includes lunch. Bookings essential - contact [centre@attitudinalhealing.org.au](mailto:centre@attitudinalhealing.org.au) / [www.attitudinalhealing.org.au](http://www.attitudinalhealing.org.au) or 0416 390 261.