Key Dates
Friday 31 May
Year 11 & 12 Prac Exams

Monday 3 June
Foundation Day - Public Holiday

Tuesday 4 June
Year 11 & 12 Exams commence
Year 10 Parent Information Evening & Subject Selection

Wednesday 5 June
11.7 RE Mass

Friday 7 June
ACC Para Fun Run

Sunday 9 June
Ursula Frayne Memorial Day

Monday 10 June
Year 10 Exams commence

Tuesday 11 June
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 12 June
9.1 RE Mass
Year 10 Careers Information Day - Curtin University

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

Principal’s Report
I attended the launch of Reconciliation Week at Government House on Monday. This event reinforced what a difference a compassionate and merciful community of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people can make when there is a sense of healing and humanity as a focus. The following reconciliation prayer reminds us of the Christian value of forgiveness:

Holy Father, God of Love, You are the Creator of this land and of all good things. We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and the sufferings of our peoples, and we ask your forgiveness. We thank you for the survival of indigenous cultures. Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you. We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

Through religious education students are taught the four facets of Harmony important in relationships: Harmony with God, harmony with self; harmony with others and harmony with creation. As Christians we believe that reconciliation is more than forgiveness but it is commitment to harmony by recognizing the wrong that has been done and endeavoring to build relationships into the future.

National Reconciliation Week gives our school community a chance to celebrate the culture and history of the first Australians. It’s a time for us to reflect, celebrate and commit to reconciliation and to think about how we can build mutually respectful relationships between Aboriginal and other Australians.

I am pleased to say the College held a number of events during the week to bring reconciliation to the attention of the students. The exercise where hundreds of students placed handprints, coloured in black, red and yellow, to form the aboriginal flag (see photo) was a very effective way to focus on reconciliation.

Peace and harmony to you all.

Mr Chris Cole, Acting Principal

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
If we are humble and sincere God will finish in us the work He has begun. He never refuses His grace to those who ask it.
Mission Leader’s Musings

Reflecting on Scripture:
(Romans 12:2)
I appeal to you……. Do not model your behaviour on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourself what is the will of God- what is good acceptable and mature.

Reflecting with Catherine:
Catherine McAuley is a woman for our era as well as her own. Hers is a story for a time such as our where everyone is so caught up with the action, busyness and push to do more and more and more.

A contemporary journalist might have seen the headlines possible in the events of her life. “Heiress Turns Fortune to Folly,” “Callaghan Family Challenges Caretaker’s claim to Estate,” “Prominent Surgeon Threatens House Guest,” “Dublin Socialite Evades Solicitors,” “Bagot Street Ladies Criticised by Local Clergy.”

Hers is a model for faith filled action centred on prayer, in a time so much in need of knowing how to build reflection and contemplation into busy lives and how to live life at depth even when extremely active.

In her own time, Catherine’s story was more quietly noted and appreciated. She was remarkable for the manner in which she embodied the ordinary virtues in her daily life. She had no great design, only a desire to make some lasting effort for God’s poor. This yearning engendered a response that was practical and immediate, warm and cordial, enabling and respectful.

She felt called to make some contribution to the well-being of the world in which she found herself.

In Catherine’s Words:
…Perfection does not consist in performing extraordinary action, but rather in performing extraordinarily well the ordinary actions of every day.

Ms Rosa Speranza - Mission Leader

World Environment Day
Wednesday 5 June

‘Zero Waste Lunch Day’
will be held as part of World Environment Day, with “Keep Cups” on sale at the canteen.

A special lunch deal is offered - soup/bun and Keep Cup for $12.

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

Students are reminded to bring their ‘Keep Cups’ back to the canteen clean for future purchases.

Let’s do the right thing and
Years 7/8 Learning Community

Year 8 - Mrs Melissa Trolio
The Year 8 Group Work Project - Mr Tim Poga
On Thursday 30 May the Group Work Project was launched to the Year 8 students during their pastoral care period. Students will have follow up sessions on Thursday 6 June and then go on their ‘GWP walk through the City’ on Monday 10 June. Please note students should be dressed in sports uniform on this day. Students will then spend two weeks (17 – 28 June) working on their projects during school time. All classes except options classes will be suspended during this period. Parents will receive an invitation via their daughters to attend the GWP Exhibition in the College Hall on Friday 28 June. If you would like to know more you can watch the online presentation that was given to students his week which can be found at: [http://prezi.com/6b1ok71emqrl/untitled-prezi/?kw=view-6b1ok71emqrl&rc=ref-3137353](http://prezi.com/6b1ok71emqrl/untitled-prezi/?kw=view-6b1ok71emqrl&rc=ref-3137353).

For further information contact your daughter’s homeroom teacher or one of the Teacher Leaders (Mr Poga, Miss Steven, Mrs Lloyd, Mr Hall, Mr Loh or Mrs Ralph).

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 10 - Mr Liam Smith
The Year 10 cohort had their visit to the Career’s Expo at the Perth Convention Centre on May 16. The girls had the opportunity to explore the numerous exhibits, collect information booklets and ask industry representatives questions. It was great to see so many girls filling their bag with all the information necessary to be able to have informed conversations with parents about future prospects and upper school subject selections. I look forward to seeing all the girls and parents at the Parent Information Session on Tuesday 6 June held in the College Hall. This session will allow for information about subject selections, University and Tafe entrance requirements as well as College requirements for Year 12 graduation.

Recently Bailey Taylor and Eliza Jackson attended the RYPEN Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment Camp. An experience which immersed the girls in leadership enrichment programs and activities. I congratulate the two girls on their involvement in the camp and representation of the College.

Year 11/12 Learning Community

Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett
The girls have had an assessment free week and have been working with their subject teachers to prepare for the semester examinations. They will be on study leave over the next two weeks and need only to attend school for their scheduled exams. It is important that students are aware of their examination timetable and arrive at school in time to sit their examination without the stress or anxiety created by delays due to transport arrangements. The girls have received instructions regarding the procedures to follow should a mishap or illness occur. Scheduled classes for Year 11 students will recommence Monday 17 June. We wish the girls every success in the exams.

Year 12 - Mrs Bernadette Dell
Everyone is very busy preparing for the Semester 1 examinations, both practical and written, so stress levels are very high in Year 12. The College Counsellors have offered some training in stress management techniques to the girls after school on Wednesdays and several other suggestions have been made during the semester. These include online modules from the Psychology Department at ANU and ideas that have been demonstrated by the ‘Rising Generations’ team and Homeroom teachers. Please encourage your daughter to try some of these options if she is feeling pressured at this stage.

Every student should have submitted her forms for the Retreat, which is being held at New Norcia after the exams. The venue will be very cold and so bedding and clothing should cater for this and, if it is wet, appropriate rainproof jackets will be needed as we will be working in a variety of venues around the town and everyone will need to spend some time walking between the locations. I know the girls are very excited at the prospect of the residential Retreat so we should have a very rewarding time together.

Curriculum News

Academic Services - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services
2014 Year 11 Course Information Evening
This is a reminder that the Information Evening for current Year 10 students and parents will be held in the College Hall on Tuesday 4 June at 6.30 pm (not 7 pm as stated in the last newsletter). At this evening the process will begin for the selection of courses in Year 11 for 2014. We recommend that you bring a pen and notepaper to write down information or questions you may have as you listen to the presentations by Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal Academic Services, and Cheryl Alach, Careers Counsellor. It is also required that a parent attend with their daughter in order to gather information.

Year 10 Exams
These will commence on Monday 10 June and will run through to Friday 14 June, excluding Wednesday 12 June (Careers Information Day at Curtin University). For the exam timetable and guidelines for participation, click HERE. If your child is absent for the exam, please contact my office on 9323 1379 so it may be rescheduled.
English - Ms Catherine O'Toole
Visit to the Holocaust Institute of WA
All Year 11 English, Stage 1 students had a very poignant experience during their recent visit to the Holocaust Institute, where they listened to the harrowing story of a Holocaust survivor. The visit was arranged to enable them to better understand the context of their novel, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and by all accounts it was very worthwhile.

Year 9 - Author Visit
On Monday 27, Year 9 students were lucky enough to have a visit from Julia Lawrinson, author of their novel Bye Beautiful. Julia explained her inspiration for the text and its characters and judging by the number of questions asked, the book has certainly been a big hit with our girls.

Year 12 Stage 2 and 3 English and Literature students
A reminder to all students to return permission slips for the Curtin Conference in Week 9.

Children, Family and Community 3A/B and Modified Leisure for Living
Herb Garden - Lucy Gilbert 12.3
Sustainable patterns of living is defined as, “lifestyle choices in which an individual or society attempts to reduce their use of the Earth’s natural resources and personal resources.” The Modified Leisure for Living class as well as four Year 12 students from the Children, Family and Community 3A/B class have created a recyclable planter herb garden over a number of weeks. The project was put in place to allow students within the College to gain a clearer understanding of sustainable patterns of living and ensure the College is making an environmentally friendly contribution towards our environment. There will be further additions to the herb garden; however this is the first step which has had a positive response. Casey Gunning, Millie French, Maddie Sheridan and I assisted the students Shakira, Sofia, Anna, Amber, Mia and Gemma in the project. It gave us an opportunity to work together and create an eco-friendly addition to our environment.

Collection of Students from After-school activities/events - Mrs Sabrina Hughes
Over the last month or so an increasing number of students appear to be waiting for parents on the footpaths of Goderich and Hay Streets. Students have obviously been in attendance at after school activities, and numbers of students are waiting, at times past 5pm and beyond.

In the interests of student safety, I am asking that all students wait within the College grounds, either in Catherine’s Garden or the area just inside the Hill Street gates until parents arrive. Students will be able to wait safely without any safety concerns.

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.

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.
Year 12 Career Mentors Breakfast

Over 70 Year 12 students enjoyed the opportunity to gain valuable information about possible career options at this morning’s Career Mentors’ Breakfast. Pictured above (L to R) Shelby Maher, Carli Ciancotti, Mentor Pharmacist Tara Neil, Isabella Pitt and Stefania Callabro

Making Mercedes Greener - Mrs Marg Ryan
World Environment Day, Wednesday 5 June

Congratulations to Eliza Toohey from 7.6 who won the Zero Waste Day poster competition.

Let’s celebrate World Environment Day in two ways:

Zero Waste Day
Our “Zero Waste Lunch Day” is 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. ‘Keep Cups’ will be sold at the canteen for $10 to encourage students, parents and staff to use recyclable cups. On this day, a special lunch deal is offered with the purchase of the ‘Keep Cup’. Students and staff will be allowed to pre-order this special lunch from Wednesday, 29 May until Tuesday, 4 June.

The ‘Keep Cup’ is perfect for hot drinks, soup or water. Students are reminded to please bring their Keep Cups back to the Canteen clean for future purchases.

Let’s do the right thing and

Homeroom plants
Students may select a plant or plants in recycled plant pots for their Home Room. The classes should have a list of recommended plants. Old plant containers preferably with a base may be used and 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 Wednesday, 29 May. Homerooms will be responsible for their plant during the year as the plants will help to provide ambience and enhance the classroom.

Plants may be selected and ordered before Tuesday, 4 June and delivery will be arranged once all orders have been confirmed. Any questions may be addressed to Mrs Ryan.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee
A bridge building competition was held for Year 8 and 9 students. It began near the end of Term 1, with teams required to design and construct a bridge using 25 bamboo skewers and wood glue. The bridge needed to span a 30cm gap. Six teams entered the competition with the hope of qualifying for the state competition (held in August).

The bridge score came from many components – the most important being the load it could support (other components included weight, quality, assessment by a practising structural engineer (many thanks to Kim Hortin – Class of 2007) and “people’s choice” voting). The bridges were tested during Week 2 of this term – which involved adding weights until they failed.
USA Music Tour

On Tuesday the 16 of April, students from Mercedes and Trinity College met at the Airport to depart on the 2013 USA Music Tour.

The students have been preparing for this tour since mid-2012 and after a long plane trip, made it to LA safely. In Los Angeles they visited the Santa Monica pier, Venice Beach, the Walt Disney Concert Hall and see the LA Philharmonic Orchestra perform. They attended mass at the beautiful Cathedral of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles, performed at Universal Studios, completed music workshops at Loyola Marymount University, travelled down Sunset Boulevard and saw the Hollywood sign. They also spent several days at LA High schools, sharing pizza for dinner in their cafeteria, getting to know the students. The American system of schooling was very different to Australia. On average, Australian music groups rehearse for 1.5 hours per week – but in the USA they rehearse for 10 hours. Their music groups were exceptional! The students completed workshops and performed concerts in the evenings, and all schools involved learnt a lot from each other.

The group then travelled to New York and did plenty of sightseeing. They visited sites such as Central Park, The Guggenheim Museum, The Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Wall Street, the SONY technology lab, Broadway, Times Square, The Empire State Building and amazing parks and roof top gardens located around the city. They toured through parts of Manhattan, New Jersey and Harlem, went to a Yankees baseball game and rode the subway. One of the most memorable experiences was The Lion King song and movement workshop hosted by cast members from the Broadway show. By the end of the workshop, the girls, boys and staff had learnt an actual song and dance used in the Lion King – and then saw it performed by the Broadway cast on stage that night.

The main goal for the tour was to participate in the Heritage Music Festival in New York. There were 23 schools involved from 3 continents and 15 different states. The Mercedes/Trinity Wind Orchestra received third place in their category and a Silver Award. The Mercedes/Trinity String Ensemble achieved a Gold Award and first place in their category, the Outstanding Orchestra Award and the Adjudicator’s Award. By having three ensembles in the festival we were also eligible for the Festival...
Sweepstakes Award, which was awarded to the school with the highest average over three different groups. This was another award that the group was lucky enough to come home with.

Thank you to Mrs Sharon Beros for her support in the Music Department prior to the tour, Mr Paul Waterhouse for his musical expertise before and during the tour, as well as the Trinity College Staff, Dr Robert Braham, Ms Athena Litis, Miss Natasha Rich, Mr Neville Taibot, Mrs Margaret Denniston and Mr Peter Norman who were a wonderful school to tour with.
Politics and Law - Mr Tim Poga

Mock Law Trials

In recent weeks team members have been working hard to complete the second round of the annual Interschool Mock Law Trial competition. In this round Mercedes took the role of the plaintiff in a civil case involving negligence at a shopping centre. The Year 10 team had a loss to Presbyterian Ladies College Year 10. The Year 11 students lost their trial to Christ Church Grammar School and the Year 12 students won their trial after St Mary’s forfeited by withdrawing from the trial.

So far this year the competition has required students to effectively use precise language and thought, work interdependently, persist in the face of numerous challenges and strive for accuracy by continuously referring back to statute and case law in their work. Round three commences just after exams and will see Mercedes teams play the role of the prosecution in a criminal case involving a scenario where the accused was allegedly found driving whilst under disqualification.

National Schools Constitutional Convention - Sofia Varricchio 12.3

On 19 March, ten Year 12 students, including myself from WA left for Canberra to represent our State at the National Schools Constitutional Convention. It was an amazing, three day jam packed experience. I was able to converse with like-minded students from all over Australia on the topic of Aboriginal Recognition in the Constitution, which is to be an upcoming referendum in Australia. Not only did we debate on the topic of Aboriginal recognition and all agree on the idea, but we also visited Parliament House and Old Parliament House, the Constitutional Museum, met with the Governor General, Quentin Bryce and had afternoon tea at Government House with her and her husband, enjoyed a luxurious dinner at the High Court whilst meeting High Court justices and were privileged enough to watch Question Time inside of Parliament. We also met our local MP’s (in my case Steve Irons MHR for Swan) who gave us a personal tour of Parliament House. The Constitutional Convention was an amazing experience and I feel very privileged to have been able to the College and Western Australia on such an important and beneficial matter which will help endorse Aboriginal equality in our nation.

Sport - ACC Cross Country

Top left to right: Year 7 Abigail Moroney crossed the finishing line in 5th position; Year 8 students waiting for the start of their race in what can only be described as trying conditions. Overall the girls did very well, results will be published in the next newsletter.
Parents & Friends Association

Entertainment Books
Parents who ordered and paid for an Entertainment Book, please remind your daughter to come to the office to collect your book(s). Notices have been placed in the daily bulletin to remind the girls but just in case you haven’t got your book, please collect it next week. Parents who are considering purchasing a book, time and stock is running out so please hurry before you miss out.

Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Stickers
Please keep collecting the Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers and send them in to the College. This Promotion ends on 9 June 2013.

Father/Daughter Camp 2013 - Chris Girando (Camp Leader 2013)
Last weekend, saw yet again another bunch of interpid Dads and Daughters cruise on down to Forrest Edge camp in Waroona. Over 90 people traipsed up and down hills all while enjoying each others company. Many games of basketball ("we playing for sheep stations people") took place in amongst other challenging activities such as a ropes course, orienteering, flying fox – oh that mountain to climb up, abseiling and the infamous pamper pole. The days were rounded out with relaxing screen printing to bring out the artistic flair. Many laughs and moments of frivolity were shared as friendships grew and old ones were renewed. A huge thank you must be given to the camp site staff for looking after us and our tummies, to the dads and daughters for whole heartedly embracing all that is 'Father Daughter Camp' and finally to Mrs Jackie Stacey for all your efforts in helping to make this years camp another great success.

PS: Dads don’t forget to send in your camp photos.

Student News

Study Tips - Communications Ministry
Unfortunately, exams are one of the most stressful times of the school year; but they are something that we all must get through. In order to reduce your stress levels and to not only survive - but succeed in the coming weeks; the prefects have a few study tips they would like to share with you.

1. Set up your study space - do you study in silence or listen to music? Do you work better alone or with others? Do you prefer to study at home or at school/library? Once you have determined they best way for you learn, organise your desk/timetable so that you can capitalise on this knowledge. If you prefer music playing, try to find some tracks that have little to no lyrics; this helps your brain to focus on the task at hand and not the lyrics. If you’re going to study with friends, make sure they are also willing to work hard and that they will not be a distraction.

2. Be Organised - Make sure you have all the materials you need so you won’t break your concentration by looking for a calculator or pen.

3. Set goals and be MOTIVATED - Setting goals and keeping the end result in mind is your motivation. Think about this: holidays, or (for Year 12 students) the end of high school. It may be helpful to write these goals on post-it notes and stick them around your room/in your locker to remind yourself of what you are working towards.

4. Look after yourself - This is the most important as during this time it won’t only be mentally challenging, but there will also be emotional and physical stresses. Make sure you:
   - Sleep for a minimum of 8 hours and 12 minutes, remembering that sleep focuses on repairing the brain and brain growth development
   - Achieve a balance between studying, hanging out with friends, eating well, exercise and a little bit of leisure - a person is not a machine, you can’t work 24 hours a day!
   - Have breaks every 45 to 60 mins - Taking a drink of water, walk the dog, feeding the fish, playing the piano - though not activities that will distract you for hours
   - Try not to be tempted by a quick fix like Coke or Redbull as you'll have a sugar high and then a low. Try to eat balanced meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables. Bananas are great study snacks!

Remember that these are just the basics, and what you put into an exam is usually what you get out of it. Good luck, we’ll be rooting for you!

Mercedes Netball Club
Mercedes Netball Club will be holding their AGM Thursday 13 June 2013 at 7:00pm in the Mercedes College Staff Room. An invitation goes out to those who would like to be more involved in this great club.
**Thank You to Parents**

**Production Costumes**
Thank you to the parents who have come in and helped over the past 3 Tuesdays (Belinda Ipsaro-Passione, Elsie Metcalf, Coleen Anderson, Chenoa Anderson, Nicole O'Rourke, Coleen Haines, Jodie Harders, just to name a few). The costumes are progressing and we look forward to the next Costume Making Session which will take place on Tuesday 11 June at 6.30pm.

**Father Daughter Camp**
Thank you to Chris Girando for organising the camp and Philip O'Hara & Steve Lally who drove the two College busses down to camp. Thank you to all the dads who attended. Hope you all had a wonderful time with your daughter.

**Careers Mentors Breakfast**
Thank you to the parents (Suzanne Blundo, Agatha Manel, Sina Andrijich, Frances McKenna and Camille Mangan) who helped with the Breakfast this week. It was a lovely event and well worthwhile for the Year 12 students.

**Noticeboard**

**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 / 5 & 12 June, 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](http://www.wa.relationships.com.au).

**St Mary’s Cathedral High Tea Fundraiser** - Sunday 16 June 2013 / St Mary’s Cathedral Parish Centre / $50 per person. Proceeds go towards the educational materials for the orphanages in Brazil. For tickets or further information contact Tammy via email [smcpps@yahoo.com.au](mailto:smcpps@yahoo.com.au) or visit the Cathedral Piety Stall. Tickets must be purchased before Sunday 2 June.