Key Dates
Friday 8 November
Year 11 Prac Exams
Monday 11 November
Catherine McAuley Memorial Day
Wednesday 13 November
7.3 RE Mass
Year 11 Exams commence
Thursday 14 November
Year 10 Drama Showcase 6.00pm
Friday 15 November
Year 10 Beach Lightning Carnival
ACC Inclusive Sports Ten Pin Bowling
Friday 20 November
7.4 RE Mass

Principal’s Report

“Give freely to the world these gifts of love and compassion. Do not concern yourself with how much you receive in return, just know in your heart it will be returned.” (Steve Maraboli)

It is certainly quiet at school as the Year 12 students anxiously sit their WACE exams and the rest of the student body work earnestly in preparation for their semester two exams and final assessments. Please continue to keep our Class of 2013 in your prayers. For those girls not sitting exams there is still an anxious wait to see if they have gained admittance to courses at an Institute of Technology or other further education providers.

It is also timely to consider the upcoming Leavers Week experiences that seem to have become almost a compulsory right of passage for Year 12 students. The School Drug Education and Road Aware organisation has placed a new segment on the Alcohol.Think Again website to assist parents with tips about how to prepare for Leaver’s Week and ways to avoid potential risks they may come up against during that Week. Helpful information on planning experiences that would allow Year 12 students to have a good time without disaster is provided. Neil Guard, Executive Director of the Drug and Alcohol Office, urges parents to not provide alcohol to their children and to know where their children are, who they are with, and if they are in a situation where people may be drinking alcohol. We want our young women to be safe and care not only for themselves but for each other.

There have been some phone calls from parents regarding the introduction of iPads for all students in Years 7 to 11 next year. Parents please trust that we have developed strict policies for the use of these devices. The students will know from day one that their iPad is a tool for learning, not for playing games and emailing friends. At Mercedes we have never put technology at the heart of the learning. Good classroom teaching and learning, or pedagogy as we call it, is at the heart and technology is just one tool to enhance that learning. Anytime Anywhere Learning will give our students immediate access, not only to the internet when they need it in class, but also to a range of applications that will engage them more deeply in their learning. The laptops provided by the school will still be available. The iPad won’t be able to do everything.

Insight from Catherine McAuley:

It is for God we serve the poor, and not for thanks.

Farewell to 2013 Year 12s.
Mission Leader’s Musing’s

‘All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.’ Proverbs 15:15

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan Friar who is globally recognised as a gifted teacher, in his writing on Meditation he asks us: Why does the Bible, and why does Jesus, tell us to care for the poor and the outsider? It is because we all need to stand in that position for our own conversion. We each need to stand under the mercy of God, the forgiveness of God, and the grace of God—to understand the very nature of reality. When we are too smug and content, then grace and mercy have no meaning—and God has no meaning.

Jesus is always on the side of the crucified ones. He is not loyal to this or that group, or the “worthy” ones—Jesus is loyal to suffering itself, wherever it is. We do not always like that! He grabs all of our self-created boundaries away from us, and suddenly all we have is a free fall into the arms of God, who is our only and solid security!

On Tuesday of this week approximately 20 Parents, Students and Staff gave generously of their afternoon to free fall into the world of the poor, homeless and street bound in Perth. The Big Issue hosted the Anti Poverty Cup Community Soccer Event at Wellington Square and Mercedes College provided assistance with field helpers, a BBQ meal and our students alongside Trinity boys played soccer with clients and staff from Perth service agencies to the poor. Parents were in attendance from as early as 1pm and were a wonderful presence of Mercy hospitality in the park. A life giving free fall into the arms of God, no better way to end a working/studying day!

Sr Vedette Lendich SSC

We have changed the specification of the iPad to 32G Wi-Fi as a minimum requirement to ensure that the students will have sufficient memory on their device for all the digital texts and apps that will be required. There will be significant savings for parents in the purchasing of digital texts. All learning areas in the College have moved to digital texts where such texts are available. Most of these texts will be available through iBooks although some digital text licences will only be available through OfficeMax who supply our text books.

On the booklist you will also have the particular specification for the iPad the students will need. There will also be a link to the College website where a list of all required apps available through the Apple Store and digital texts to be either purchased or downloaded free from the iBook Apple store. These will all be required to be downloaded onto the iPad ready for the start of the 2014 academic year. During the year the students may be required to purchase other apps, however, it might be wiser for parents to simply provide their daughter with a $20 iTunes card, for example. Please be rest assured that any app will be thoroughly investigated by the Head of Learning Area and the teachers concerned prior to any recommendation for students to purchase or download free Apps.

Students have been asking can they continue to use a tablet instead of an iPad. The answer is no. They are also asking can they use a 16gb iPad. If a student only has a 16gb iPad she runs the risk of not having enough memory for all the required digital texts and apps. A 32gb iPad is the minimum requirement.

A letter containing all the relevant information regarding the introduction of the iPads at the College will be emailed home to all families in the next week or so. Please read the information carefully and be sure to contact the College if you have any further questions.

Resiliency Robbers #5 (Michael Carr-Gregg)
Neglect to develop independence
Don’t wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.
Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Peace and best wishes.

Sheena Barber, Principal
Pastoral Care News

Year 9/10 Learning Community
Year 9 - Ms Callie Steven

On this day in 1913, Albert Camus was born. Camus was a good student and a dedicated athlete who won a scholarship to a prestigious French high school. Unfortunately, his sporting career was cut short at the age of 17 by an attack of tuberculosis. But Camus did not despair, and instead of pursuing an athletic career, he took a degree at the University of Algiers. He intended to become a philosophy teacher, but another bout of tuberculosis prevented him from taking a position. During World War II, he joined the French Resistance and wrote for a newspaper. He also began writing essays, plays and novels, winning the Nobel Prize in literature in 1957.

Camus can teach us many things. Firstly, never give up. That is an extremely important idea that students especially at this time of year need to remember. Also important is having a good education to fall back on just in case. With assessments and exams fast approaching now is the time to establish good study habits (if your daughter hasn’t already) and make sure that students make the most of their time here at Mercedes.

Secondly, Camus explored moral order and personal responsibility. In many ways what he wrote echoes what we try to teach here at Mercedes. He recognised the nihilist tendencies in the world and argued that people needed to celebrate their own successes and learn from their failures, owning the actions that allowed both to exist. So hopefully we can encourage students to become a little more responsible for themselves; from preparing for that test, to finding that lost hat. In the end, Camus really encourages us to think about the world around us and all the people within it, and that is important for us all.

Year 11/12 Learning Community
Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett

To mark the conclusion of our year together as a Pastoral Care group, we celebrated the Eucharist and gave thanks for the many blessings and achievements we have enjoyed this year. The Deputy Prefects were also commissioned at this Mass, and received their badges. The achievements of the girls over the year have been recognised and celebrated at our recent Presentation Evening and at the final year assembly held last week. I would like to commend the girls on their contribution to the College over the year and to congratulate our Head Girl for 2014, Sarah Berhanu, and Deputy Head Girl, Shaye Guillory.

The final day of scheduled classes for Year 11 students will be Tuesday 12 November and this will be a normal school day. Students will be on study leave from Wednesday 13 November to Tuesday 26 November, during which time they need only to attend school for their scheduled exams. All Year 11 students will return to school on Friday 29 November to conclude the academic year. We wish them well in the forthcoming examinations.

Curriculum News

Year 8 - 10 Electives and Year 11 - 12 Courses 2014 - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services

This week your daughter has received confirmation of Elective Courses through the Homeroom. Students in Year 8 – 10 in 2014 (currently in Years 7 – 9) have been allocated according to preferences. Please use this information in consulting the Booklist for required texts and stationery items. Students have been advised about the times they are able to meet with Mrs Strutt and Mrs Siliquini to effect possible changes that can only be made if they are possible on the current timetable structure which is now fixed.

Students in Year 11 and 12 in 2014 (currently in Years 10 and 11) have also received confirmation of Courses of Study and Certificate courses. It is advised that students contact me immediately should a change be made. Please be aware that this can only be done if it fits the timetable and class numbers allow the changes. Any students on conditional enrolment in courses will have their position in the course reviewed after exams held later this term.

In the week from 2 - 6 December current Year 11 students going into Year 12 who have not met conditional requirements will meet with Mrs Strutt to discuss changes to pathways and course amendments. It is important that students meet pre-requisites in order for them to ensure success in the courses into which they are enrolled.

For current Year 10 students, parents will be notified if students have not met pre-requisites after exams and will be counselled on their courses in a meeting with parents. Appointments will be made from 9 - 13 December.

If you have any queries about this, please contact Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal – Academic Services on 9323 1379 or email lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au.
**Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, HOLA Mathematics**

**UNSW Mathematics Competition 2013**

The UNSW Mathematics Competition took place during Term 3. The College entered 16 students (fifteen from Year 8 and one from Year 7). Your certificates will be distributed at the next year assembly. Congratulations to the following students who achieved a Distinction: Ivy Bui (Year 8) and Amruta Lakkoju (Year 7) and well done to the following Year 8 students who achieved a Credit: Sascha Coates, Tara Lie, Emily Roberts, Jacqueline Soraine and Georgina Versteeg. Good effort girls.

**Mercy Service-Learning - Mrs Christine Aldous and Mrs Leanne Davis**

Congratulations to all students who participated in the 2013 Mercy Service-Learning program. The Year 7 and 8 students have practiced responsibility to their family, friends and College. The Year 9 students acted as stewards of creation, working for a sustainable environment. Year 10 – 12 students gave over 6000 hours supporting the wider community through acts of justice and mercy. The effort of students in acknowledging the needs of others and giving generously of their time is a true reflection of the example of Catherine McAuley.

All students have now received a written report on their achievement. Please ask your daughter to show you this statement. If you have any questions regarding her performance please contact the appropriate Mercy Service-Learning teacher. Students in Years 10 – 12, who have given a minimum of 20 hours of service, will have this time recorded on their WACE as a Community Service record. Those who met the academic requirement will also have the Mercy Service-Learning unit acknowledged on their WACE.

**General News**

**Habits of Mind Quote**

“Often the hands will solve a mystery that the intellect has struggled with in vain.” (Carl G. Jung)

**Enrolments**

Interviews for 2016 Year 7 enrolments will be conducted early 2014 for sisters of current and past Mercedes students. If you haven’t enrolled your daughter, please contact Mrs Lamb on 9323 1340 for an Application Form.

**2013 College Photos**

All Sporting and the remaining non-sporting group photos are now available online to view and purchase. Please go to www.photohendriksgalleries.com - Click on the Mercedes College logo and enter the password: luxe45.

**House Knitting Club - Mrs Sonya Roberts**

Since the new initiative; Knitting for the Needy began in August this year, the Club have completed their first House blanket and are well on their way to completing two more. The Mercedes Community are invited to take part in this initiative, by sending knitted squares into the College. Knitted squares for Serisier (blue), McDonald (red) and Wright (purple) are being sorted in order to complete the next two blankets.

- Dimensions of the Knitted Square: 40 stitches of garter stich until knitting is square
- Requirements: 4.0mm needles and 8ply acrylic wool in the Mercedes Colours.

Thank you to students, staff and parents who have enthusiastically contributed to this initiative.

**Music - Ms Claire Gamlin, Music Coordinator**

**Thank you**

It has been an incredibly busy start to the term (again!), but what a wonderful few weeks we have had in the Music Department. Over the holidays, the girls in the Select Choir were busy rehearsing for their performance with the Spirit of the Streets Choir (SoS). On Sunday 20 October, the girls were invited to perform with the SoS Choir at the Perth Town Hall. The Select Choir performed 6 pieces in a 30 minute set, to a sold out audience, and joined the SoS Choir for the final two pieces. It was a wonderful experience to be able to share with the choir, who has had a connection with Mercedes for the past 5 years.

The week that followed featured wonderful performances by the Wind Orchestra and String Orchestra at Trinity College’s Presentation Evening. The Select Choir sang at the Year 12 Graduation Mass the following evening – and despite losing almost 20 Year 12 girls this year, the Choir sounded beautiful and as strong as ever!

Friday night of the same week was our own Presentation Evening – and the performances by Wind Orchestra, Jazz Band,
Mercedes/Trinity Chorale, The Year 12 girls and the Year 7 Massed Choir made this night one of the most memorable evenings since I have been here.

On Friday of last week, the percussion girls performed at the St Jude’s Cultural Evening in Langford. They entertained the crowd with their Papua New Guinean Drumming, and their West African Djembe circle. Thank you sincerely to all of the girls who have performed in the concerts so far this term! You have been wonderful ambassadors for the Mercedes College community.

**Upcoming Performances**

**Jazz Band and Jazz Quartet – Ellington Jazz Club Monday 2 December**

Love Jazz? Love food? Looking for a night out with a difference? Then join the Mercedes College Jazz Band at The Ellington Jazz Club at 6.30pm on Monday, 2 December. They will be joined by the Jazz Quartet, some of our ex-music students and special guests to present a selection of swing, fusion, Latin, funk and soul in this renowned Jazz Club!

Bookings can be made online through The Ellington website but be sure to book early as there is limited seating available. Tickets are $15 for table seating and $10 to stand at the bar and bookings online: [http://www.ellingtonjazz.com.au/index.php/schedule/month/12/show/2806](http://www.ellingtonjazz.com.au/index.php/schedule/month/12/show/2806)

**Auditions for 2014**

It’s that time of year where we are auditioning for members for 2014. Audition information for Wind Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Rock Band and Select Choir has been given out. If girls are unsure, please see one of the Music Staff.

**Diary Dates**

**Instrumental Concert**

As the year comes to a close, we are offering our music students the opportunity to perform at a Music Tutor Instrumental Concert. This is not a compulsory concert, but allows the students who would like to perform in a relaxed environment and the opportunity to listen to their peers.

The concert will be run in a few sessions:

- **Sunday 24 November**
  - Piano, brass, woodwind, percussion and guitar: Approximately 12.00pm - 2.00pm in Mercedes Performing Arts Centre
- **Sunday 24 November**
  - Voice Students: Approximately 2.30pm – 4.30pm in Mercedes College Performing Arts Centre
- **Monday 2 December**
  - Mercedes/Trinity String Ensemble and string students: approximately 3.30pm – 4.45pm Rostrevor Lecture Theatre
- **Monday 2 December**
  - Jazz Band & Jazz Quartet Concert at the Ellington Jazz Club (evening)
- **Wednesday 3 December**
  - Year 7 & 8 Choir members Grandparents Mass (morning)
- **Thursday 4 December**
  - Year 8 & 10 Select Choir Carols at Mercy Hospital Volunteer Lunch

L to R: Select Choir rehearsing with the Spirit of the Streets Choir at St Albans Hall in Highgate; Percussion Ensemble Performing PNG Log Drumming at St Jude’s Multicultural Night on Friday 1 November.
Melbourne Cup - Jessie Lonergan (11.5)
This year the Melbourne Cup was celebrated by a number of students at lunch time. The 2014 Prefects and Deputy Prefects celebrated the day by organising and running fun activities for all members of the College student community. These activities included cheering competitions, horses racing and of course, fashions on the field!

Students were asked to ‘dress-up’ their school hats if they wished to compete in the ‘Fashions on the Field’ competition. We saw some extremely creative hat decorations, ranging from feathered fascinator to laminated photos of horses, but the winning hats were inspired by the Classic Australian Cork hat, but instead of corks the winners had hung pictures of horses from their hats.

Many of the Year 7 and 8 students participated in the horse races, racing up and down the oval on broomsticks with horses heads. The excitement of the day built as the cheers grew louder. Students showed off their fabulous hat creations on the runway, and despite the hot weather all girls put in 110% as they raced up and down the oval.
This event was extremely enjoyable for all participants as well as all the student and teacher spectators. Congratulations to all who joined in cultivating school spirit, as well as the 2014 Prefects and Deputy Prefects who capably took charge of this first event of their Council.

Parents and Friends Association

**Quiz Night** - 8 November 2013 has been **cancelled**.

**Spring to Margaret River**
Last weekend a group of ex-Mercedes parents and current Mercedes parents, staff and I ventured out to Margaret River to celebrate our 10th Anniversary of the Mercedes College Spring in the Valley. It was a wonderful weekend filled with great company, great food, fun, laughter and fantastic sites at the various places we visited. All mums who attended had a wonderful time and are all looking forward to the next one in 2014!

**2014 Mother/Daughter Camp** - Surfpoint Resort, Prevelly, Margaret River. Places are filling fast so hurry and send in your booking form.

Thank You to Parents

**Year 12 Graduation Celebration**
Thank you to all the Year 11 parents who assisted with this year’s Year 12 Graduation. In particular the committee which consisted of Michele Powell, Marie & Tim Allan, Sally John, Deb Humphries, Pat Blair, Ivana Gaglia and the many Year 11 parents who assisted on the day/ evening. The Committee and I could not have done it without you.
Street Soccer Anti Poverty Week
Thank you to everyone who helped with the cooking, setting up etc. at this week’s Anti Poverty Street Soccer match. In particular Rudy Perone, Mal Anderson, Hubert Egartner, Jim Faria, Lindsay Haines, Sue Martin and her mum, Nic and Sharon Rosato and Jason Holmes from Toll Group who lent the College their BBQ Trailer. It was a huge success.

Ursula Frayne Community Member Award – Thank You!
Thank you to all the parents who were present at Presentation Evening and those who emailed congratulating me on being awarded the Ursula Frayne Community Member Award. I was lost for words on the night but I did want to say that I sincerely share the award with all the parents who have willingly given up their time over the year(s) to come in and help at the various events. I cannot do my job without the support, encouragement and help from the Mercedes College parents. So a huge thank you to all of you! Jackie Stacey, Parent Liaison Officer

Behaviour Tonics - Practical Parenting Courses available. For more information visit www.behaviourtionics.com.au, email info@behaviourtionics.com.au or call (08) 9382 1182

Master Mind Australia - Academic Pathways - January Jump Start Program. Revision program aimed to prepare students for 2014. Courses will be conducted at Christ Church Grammar School, Hale School and Willetton Senior High School. For more information visit the www.mastermindaustralia.com.au or call Dr Robert Hall on 9486 1377.

VacSwim - Holiday Swimming Programs conducted by qualified instructors. Enrolments for December/January now open. Open to all children over 5 years and under 18 years. For more information and online enrolment visit www.det.wa.edu.au/swimming.

Worlds Greatest Shave 2014 - Support ex-student Rhiannon Porter (Class of 2011) raise $2000 for the Leukemia Foundation. Click on the following link to donate: http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/rhiannonporter. Follow Rhiannon’s progress on the score board under the name “Shaving for a Rhi-son”.

Noticeboard