Key Dates
Friday 25 March
Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Tuesday 29 March
Easter Tuesday (Catholic Schools’ Holiday)
Friday 1 April
ACC Inclusive Swimming Carnival
Saturday 2 April
Italy Tour commences (until 23 April)
Monday 4 April
House Performing Arts Festival

Principal’s Report

Holy Week is with us as we prepare for Easter Sunday and the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead and the triumph of good over evil. Holy Thursday’s College liturgy is a key event on our calendar and one that is treated with respect and reverence by all who attend.

At our most recent assembly the theme was our “Irish Connection” and I took the opportunity to explain to the students and staff what had stayed with me from the pilgrimage to Dublin this time last year. I spoke of Catherine McAuley’s compassion and care of others. She worked hard to support the poor and marginalised but also led the community of sisters with great expertise. She was collaborative and focused on building relationships. Catherine believed in bringing out the best in others and ensuring that the community experienced joy.

This is an approach that has had great influence on me and I focus on promoting a spirit of hope, goodwill and joy at the College. This approach assists with unity and happiness of the individual. Catherine referred to “the blessing of unity” and the fact that within her community “the sun never, I believe, went down on our anger.” Her wise words give us guidance.

At this assembly a presentation was given about the 2015 Cambodia Immersion at the end of last year. A group of students and staff spent time building facilities such as toilet blocks and housing in Cambodia during this immersion. It was an opportunity for our students to give to others instead of attending leavers’ events held in the wider community. We hope a similar program will occur in 2016.

Last week some of our Year 11 students participated in the Poverty Immersion program. It made quite an impact on those involved giving them a far greater understanding of the plight of the homeless. Some of the students I spoke to referred to the programme as the most worthwhile experience they had been

Insight from Catherine McAuley:
We can never say, “it is enough.”

Students and staff took part in a Lenten Liturgy this morning; taking place as a pilgrimage around the College with different Passion Reflections at various locations.
part of during their time at Mercedes.

Recently, some of our College Advisory Council members joined with their counterparts from St Brigid’s and Santa Maria along with principals and other senior staff members to attend a presentation by Carmel Crawford about “Opening the Doors of Mercy.” It was a wonderful formation opportunity and a chance to network with other schools and meet key personnel from Mercy Education Limited.

Make the most of Holy Week as it is a key time in the liturgical calendar and enjoy the break over Easter with loved ones.

Best wishes

Mrs Kerrie Fraser, Principal

Catherine McAuley Rose
P&F Fundraiser

Celebrate the College’s 170th Anniversary by purchasing a 20cm pot of the Catherine McAuley Rose. A beautiful gift for mothers and grandmothers for Mother’s Day.

$30 per rose
(funds raised will be used to assist the P&F in supporting the College to achieve the best education outcomes for our students.

To place your order click HERE.
**Year 7/8 Community**  
**Year 8 - Mrs Alicia Sharpe**

On Wednesday afternoon the Year 8 girls enjoyed the company of the Trinity boys at a picnic social held at Trinity College. The afternoon consisted of a number of carnival type stalls organised by both Colleges and a lot of fun and excitement was had by all. The girls are to be commended for their participation and excellent behaviour on the day.

A huge thank you is extended to the Year 8 Pastoral Care team for giving of their time and assistance in the running of the afternoon. I am sure the girls are now looking forward to the dance social to be held in Term 3.

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**Year 9/10 Community**  
**Year 9 - Mrs Bernadette Dell**

We have finished a busy spell including being engaged in the program for Reflection Days. The girls found the activities thought-provoking and life-enhancing and they are grateful to Ms Speranza and to the staff who supported her work at school and at the Wollaston Conference Centre. The team from ‘Loving for Life’ were very well received by the girls as they explained important aspects of relationships and sexuality.

Many students have been involved in trying to gain places in high demand co-curricular activities and some have faced disappointing news when they were not selected. Others have been upset by their results in their academic subjects. At times like this, it is important to put into practice some of the skills we have been developing in our Pastoral Care program that will build resilience and promote a realistic view of life.

Disappointments like these seem huge to the girls at the time they occur but adults can see that they are a normal part of life’s journey. Encourage your daughter to be proactive and seek information about what could be done differently next time to bring a result that she would prefer. If she is constantly focusing on what has not gone to plan for her and is ‘catastrophising’ saying things like, ‘Nothing good ever happens to me’, acknowledge her disappointment but gently steer her towards looking at the many valuable opportunities, achievements and experiences she has that make her life a good one.

I wish you all a safe and happy break over Easter.

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**Year 10 - Mrs Sherrin Adams**

There is so much happening now that the year is well underway – I thank the Year 10 students for their positive attitude towards their study and their desire to become involved in many facets of school life.

I am very impressed with the positive and proactive approach that the girls are showing concerning their Mercy Service. It is now important that they honour their commitment and do not let down the various charities that they have committed to serve. Thank you to Mrs Aldous for the many hours she is spending helping the students.

Congratulations to the seven SRC members - Grace Kay, Atira Shack, Eva Davidson, Elia Felix, Sophie Mitchell, Ella Phelan and Grace Anderson who represented the College at the Halogen Young Leaders Day.

We recently received the exciting news that Maya Matty (10.7) has been chosen for the Curtin University Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program, to be held during the April holidays. Maya is one of only 30 students chosen from 158 applicants. We know she will be an excellent ambassador for the College.

Thank you to the Peer Mentors who have recently had a picnic with their Year 7 students; this provided an opportunity to have an informal chat to strengthen bonds amongst the girls. 15 Peer Mentors also accompanied the Year 7 students to the ACC Swimming Carnival – leading them in cheering for our swimmers.

Thank you also to the many Year 10 students who volunteered to be a Tour guide on our recent Open Day.

Best wishes to the girls from Year 10 who are travelling to Italy. I hope that you have a fabulous time and come back with not only exciting stories to tell, but a growing awareness of the importance of culture in our lives, as well as increased fluency in Italian.

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**Year 11/12 Community**  
**Year 11 - Mr Liam Smith**

I don’t think a newsletter article goes by without the mention of how busy the girls have been around the College and this one is no different. I must commend the girls for their continued involvement in an array of activities around the College, I truly hope that it is a fulfilling experience, enhancing your time here at Mercedes. I see many Year 11 girls participating in an array of activities including but not limited to; Balcatta Volleyball Club, Debating, High School Cup Netball, House Choir, House Drama & Dance, Interschool Swimming, Language Tours, Liturgies, Mercedes Netball Club, Mother Daughter Camp, Music Camp, Swimming Camp, Tour Guides, Poverty Immersion, Production Auditions and Public Speaking.

I am sure the most talked about and most important of them all was the Year 11 River Cruise, a real highlight of the calendar. I am truly blessed to be leading a cohort of amazing young women, you should all be extremely proud of your daughters who exhibited exemplary behaviour throughout the evening. The staff on board the Captain Cook cruise were complementary towards both Colleges on the behaviour and conduct of all students. I also think Crust Pizza did an amazing job to be able to provide pizza for all on the cruise, what a delicious treat.

A small group of Year 11 students have also recently taken part in the Poverty Immersion experience. I was fortunate to catch
up with the girls a couple of times during the immersion and it is always impressive to hear the different reactions they take from the array of experiences throughout the program.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing Easter break, enjoy the extended weekend with the family, may everyone return re-energised and ready for the last two weeks of term.

Curriculum News

**Academic News - Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services**

**Interim Reports**

These will be available on SEQTA from 3.30pm Friday 8 April. This round of reports will feature attributes for subjects and Pastoral Care and will offer a first look at how your daughter is progressing in the first part of the year. You can access also your daughter’s results through SEQTA as confirmation of academic process.

SEQTA Parent Engage is accessible through the URL [https://parent.mercedes.wa.edu.au/](https://parent.mercedes.wa.edu.au/)

To confirm your username and password if you have forgotten or misplaced it, please contact the Mercedes Helpdesk at helpdesk@mercedes.wa.edu.au or phone 9323 1323 and ask for the IT Department.

**Triangular Meetings – note early finish for students Tuesday 3 May and Thursday 5 May.**

This year the first round of our Triangular Meetings will be held over two dates. Year 7 – 10 will be held on Tuesday 3 May and Year 11 -12 will be held on Thursday 5 May. (The second round will be held in July.)

To maximize opportunities for interviews on these days, students will finish at lunchtime. We ask that you note this so travel arrangements for your daughters may be made as necessary.

Five minute sessions will begin from 1.30pm (Tuesday 3 May) and 1.45pm (Thursday 5 May) and will run through to 7.45pm. These will be held in the Coady Sports Centre.

You will bring to the meeting a copy of the Interim Reports which will be issued through SEQTA after 3.30pm on Friday 8 April. We ask if an interview has been requested you make an appointment through PTO, the link for which is available on the College website. If an appointment is not requested, there is no requirement to make an appointment.

Bookings for these meetings can be made through PTO and a letter will be sent home after 8 April informing you of a login and password.

If you are unable to make an appointment on the scheduled Triangular Meeting days, we ask you contact the teacher to organise another meeting time. It is an expectation, however, that your daughters are present at the meeting.

If you have any queries about Triangular Meetings or Interim Reports, please contact the Deputy Principal – Academic Services, Mrs Liana Strutt at lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au or phone 9323 1379 during business hours.

**Attention Year 10 parents - Course Counselling Year 11 2017**

Please make a note in your diaries the following dates for 2017 Year 11 Course Selection:

- Course and Pathway Information Evening on Wednesday 11 May – Coady Sports Centre at 6pm
- Course Counselling Sessions – Monday 18 July (pupil free day) 8.00am to 5.00pm

This year our course counselling sessions will be held on one day – Monday 18 July (a pupil free day). Course Selection books will be available online for your reference as you prepare with your Year 10 daughter selections for Year 11. More information will be issued closer to these dates.

**Wednesday April 6 – last dates for course changes for Year 12 students**

Please be advised the final date for changes to courses is Wednesday 6 April. After this date, only withdrawals with specific documentation stating good cause will be allowed through a Curriculum Variation application. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Strutt at lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au or phone 9323 1379.
General News

Habits of Mind Quote
“Success depend upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure”. Confucius

Catherine’s Cafe News
Students with particular dietary requirements (vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose-free) may see Bree in the Café to have your name added to a register which will enable you to pre-order your lunch (salads, rolls and wraps made freshly, as well as any hot food options available on the day). Your name must be on the register to access this, and ordering and payment must be completed before school.

The Arts - Mrs Kathleen Cocks, HOLA
Art - Ms Andrea Hosking, Art Coordinator
Congratulations to Zoey Portilla (Class of 2015) who currently has artwork exhibited at the Art Gallery of Western Australia as part of the Perspectives Exhibition. This is a very prestigious exhibition that AGWA describes as, “…your yearly taste of art by some of the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the State.” Only 58 artworks were selected for exhibition from high schools around the state. Truly a great achievement by Zoey. The exhibition runs until 13 June.

Congratulations also to all students who entered our first House Art Competition for the year, ‘Women of Mercy Design Competition’. You have all earned points for your House. Annabel Haizer’s (Year 12) design was selected to represent International Woman’s Day and Isabella Rossaro (Year 12), Ania Malek (Year 12), Annabel Haizer (Year 12), Isabella Ulrich (Year 8) and Keely Maher’s (Year 7) designs have been selected for College gift cards cards.

House Performing Arts Festival - Mrs Kathleen Cocks
The House Performing Arts Festival, which is House Choir and the DramaDance Festival combined into one amazing showcase performance will be held on Monday 4 April, 6pm, at Perth Concert Hall.

Girls are in their last couple of weeks of rehearsals and every house is working very hard. The quality of the performances is excellent. There are over 300 girls involved in this Festival. Come along and support your friends and your House. Who will win? Ticket information has been emailed to all students and all parents. Over 800 tickets have already been sold so hurry and get yours! To purchase tickets click HERE.

Production
Many thanks to the 160 girls who auditioned for Hairspray. All of you have earned House points and are to be congratulated for your fantastic efforts. 70 girls have been invited to a callback this afternoon and from this group we will cast 55 girls. Unfortunately not everyone who gets a callback makes it into the Cast. The final Cast List will be published on the PAC noticeboard on Wednesday 30 March and rehearsals will begin early Term 2.
Highlights of recent College events

Inclusive Education - Ms Rebecca Lumsden, HOLA

ACC Bowling - Mr Nathaniel Yow
On Friday 11 March a group of students represented the College at an ACC Inclusive Sports Bowling Tournament at AMF Morley. It was a great morning out with the girls relishing the opportunity to get out and establish and further develop friendships with students from other schools. It was full of fun and excitement with the girls challenging themselves to strikes and spares a plenty!

ACC Beach Carnival - Ms Rosemarie Wiley
On Friday 19 February the Inclusive Education ACC Team attended the Beach Carnival at Sorrento Beach. The Beach Carnival is a very popular and enjoyable activity which the students look forward to each year.

Much fun was had by all of the students participating in Iron Man events, sand castle building, sponge bucket relay, ping pong ball relay and water balloon relay. At the end of the water and land based events the girls had time for a free swim with our resident lifesaver, Mrs Lauriston.

The weather was perfect and the water was very inviting. Once the beach activities were over the girls were able to enjoy a sausage sizzle for lunch with the other competitors before making their way back to the College.

Languages - Mrs Angela Velletri, HOLA

Italia 2016, is now also our Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year of Mercy - Emily Zimmermann and Vanessa Tenaglia
On Saturday 2 April, Perth airport will be buzzing with 35 Mercedes College students and five staff, unsure of what to expect for the next 21 days, but very excited all the same. After many months of planning and preparation, the students will finally be ready to put their newly learnt skills about the Italian culture and language into action, as well as, coping with the demands of travelling through Italy. The tour group will be visiting many exciting cities throughout Italy including Rome, Positano, Sorrento, Capri, Pompeii, Orvieto, Bolsena, Civita di Bagnoregio, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Pisa, Venice, Verona and Milan.

We have been fortunate enough to secure reserved seating at the Holy Mass of Divine Mercy at St Peter’s Square in the Vatican City, concelebrated by Pope Francis. This event adds a special dimension to our tour, adding to our excitement and anticipation.
Philosophy Excursion - Lauren Wolters (Year 10)

On Tuesday 15 March, the Year 10 Philosophy class travelled to Wesley College to take part in a series of lectures by Robert Kirkwood. These lectures were based on ethics and morals and allowed us to have some insight on some modern takes of philosophical ideas. The lectures were collaborative as Robert Kirkwood allowed the audience, which consisted of senior students from several schools, to put their opinions to the group, creating some great discussions.

I believe as a class we learnt a lot from the experience as we were able to listen to a variety of people’s takes on ideas such as pleasure over pain, what is morally right, why do our brains only allow us to see what it wants us to see, essence before existence or existence before essence, and many other ethical ideas. The topics raised really allowed us to think about what are our morals as individuals, and how should we react to society based on those morals.

Overall I believe this experience really benefited me and I very much enjoyed listening to Robert's lecture.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, HOLA

Have Sum Fun competitions

The annual Have Sum Fun competitions took part on Friday 11 March (Year 11/12 at Trinity College) and Friday 18 March (Year 7/8 at Duncraig SHS and Year 9/10 at Rossmoyne SHS). Have Sum Fun is a mathematics based quiz night where schools come together to compete for the title of champion problem solvers. The competition comprises four rounds of 8 challenging questions, plus a tie breaker round. Students work as a team on the problems, trying to find solutions, whilst munching on snacks! All teams had a wonderful night and represented the College admirably.

Many thanks to the students who participated:
Year 7  Antonia Palermo, Isabella Bruining, Kennedy Mauger, Rajendrakanya Arunkumar and Sofia Ward
Year 8  Sonya Emmett, Kayla Dawson, Rosie Battalis, Breah Milford, Madeline Roberts, Isabella Ulrich and Lily Graves
Year 9  Bethany McDonald, Leanna de Souza, Mariko Collins, Elizabeth Moschilla, Alexa Angelidis and Natasha Angelidis
Year 10  Abigail Moroney, Maddie O'Brien, Claudia Romeo, Teehani Ralph, Hannah Skinner and Phoebe Holmes
Year 12  Rachel Crock, Alyose Murray, Elisha Anstiss, Annabel Fallon and Emma Reid (there were no Year 11 students, as it was the same night as the River Cruise)

Thanks also to Mrs Ralph and Miss Lindsay who helped prepare the teams and supervised on the evening.

Science - Mr Peter Mountford, HOLA

2016 Big Science Competition – Mrs Alicia Sharpe

The Big Science Competition is organised by Australian Science Innovations, a non-profit organisation committed to providing
Sport - Mr Greg Smith, HOLA Health and Physical Education
Senior School Badminton Year 11/12
On Friday 11 March the following girls; Claire Almeida, Lina Caracciolo, Georgina Versteeg, Putri Sunarko, Abbie Taylor, Olivia Tana, Leila Nicholls, Amy Greville, Joyce Palgrave, Nicola Kastropil, Caitlin Tierney, Alison Roach, Madison Colangelo and Shanae Pitsikas, represented the College in the Badminton WA Schools Tournament at Kingsway International Sports Stadium.

The girls were placed in different groupings and played a round-robin doubles competition. The results from the round-robin were used to grade the players and place them into a second competition based on their previous performance. The second round-robin involved playing 3 games with the winner from each group then moving into an elimination tournament. Two pairs, Georgina Versteeg and Putri Sunarko, Madison Colangelo and Shanae Pitsikas won their group and played in the elimination tournament. Both pairs played extremely well and progressed through to the quarter finals. Unfortunately, they did not progress to the next round but it was a wonderful experience for them to play against very talented players, some who are State Representatives. Overall, they finished in the top eight from 32 teams.

Congratulations to all the team members on your performances, you all played extremely well against some very talented players.

Speech and Drama - Mrs Gina Ritchie, Speech Coordinator
The Speech and Drama Program in 2015 was most successful with all students undertaking examinations towards the end of the year and passing very well. As usual, the younger girls were nervous but on reflection after the exam, the girls were very happy with the experience.

The first students to be examined were the Year 8, 9 and 10 girls who did exams with the AMEB (Australian Music Examination Board). The examiners were very positive about the work of the students with many girls receiving a prized A grade which is a pass with Honours. Seven girls gained an A+ grade, a highly coveted accolade which means a pass with Distinction. They were recognised further at the annual AMEB excellence award ceremony on Sunday 13 March. They were; Stephanie Shaw, Ellen Hayes, Hannah Skinner, Hannah Anderson, Vanessa Joe, Anson Mahindra and Emily Roberts.

The remaining students from Years 7, 10, 11 and 12 undertook a Trinity, London examination with many girls gaining marks of 85% or more. The examiner was impressed with the work at Mercedes, in particular with the outstanding work of the Year 11 girls. Some girls attained a score of 90% or more. This is not an easy thing to do and is on a par with the AMEB A+ grade. From the Year 7 (2015) group, Neve Havercroft and Madeline Roberts achieved this along with Nina Campagna, Sarah Cocks, Ruby Higgins, Georgia Mola and Iesha Palelei from Year 11 (2015).

Trinity also award an additional prize 12 months after examinations to recognise an outstanding student performance from the highest marked students across Australia. We received notification last year that Emily Theseira (Class of 2013) had gained this recognition.

Congratulations to all students on their fine efforts.

high quality science extension programs that inspire, challenge and raise the aspirations of students in science. In 2016, we will be providing an opportunity for your daughter to challenge themselves in the Big Science Competition.

The 50-minute international competition, which tests student’s critical-thinking and problem solving skills as well as their science knowledge, is open to students of all abilities at two different levels – Junior (Years 7 and 8) and Intermediate (Years 9 and 10).

Each student who takes part will received a certificate as well as feedback on their performance in the competition. They also go into the draw to win hundreds of iTune and movie vouchers.

The Big Science Competition will be conducted on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 May and cost $8.00 to enter. A letter and permission slip should have gone home with your daughter from her Science teacher this week. For more information visit www.asi.edu.au
Upcoming Events

- Dads only Dinner - Thursday 31 March / Grosvenor Hotel / 6.30pm. Click [HERE](#) to book.
- Dads & Daughter Supa Golf - Sunday 3 April / Oasis Supa Golf and Adventure Miniature Golf, Swan Valley / 10am - 3pm. Click [HERE](#) to book.
- Mother’s Day Breakfast - Thursday 5 May / College Hall / 7am. Click [HERE](#) to book.

2016/17 Entertainment Book or Digital Membership.
Click [HERE](#) for more information.
P & F Mother & Daughter Camp
On Friday 11 March 32 mums and 32 daughters headed down to Margaret River for another great camp. The aim of the camp is to give Mums and Daughters an opportunity to get away together without having to worry about cooking, cleaning or other household chores! It is also an opportunity for mums to meet other mums and their daughters and have fun! It was wonderful to see all of them step out of their comfort zones! There was plenty of laughter, food, fun and games and everyone made the most of the weekend experience. Thank you to everyone who attended. Look forward to seeing you next year!

Swim Camp Breakfast
Thank you to Rosey Martin and Cathy Duffin for assisting me with the Swim Camp breakfast this year. The girls were treated to a delicious hot breakfast after a hard training session before heading to class.

Open Morning
Potential families visited the College and were treated to a morning tea hosted by the P & F. Thank you to Rita Rocca, Jo McCluskey who assisted with this event.

International Women’s Day Breakfast
On Tuesday 15 March the College celebrated International Women’s Day and treated over 100 mums and daughters to a lovely breakfast while they listened to our guest speakers. This event cannot take place without the help from parents who are willing to give up their time to set up, host and clean up after the event. Thank you to Jo McCluskey, Rita Rocca, Naomi Chapman, Katarina D’Cunha, Andrew Pinnock, Suzanne Biundo, Paula Dunn, Ann Bond, Dominic Gonsalves, Lisa Del Casalle, Sara McMillan, Lorena Townsend, Ganga Naushad, Christina Bormolini and Louise Farley.

House Liturgy Morning Tea
Thank you to McAuley mums - Norma Coveney, Anna Olivieri, Rita Santosfesfano & Jen Ott and to the Frayne mums - Samantha Breust, Tarryn, Mackenzie, Chenoa Anderson & Natalie Turner who assisted with preparing the morning tea treat for the students.

Choral Camp
Thank you to all the parents for their generous contribution of salads for the weekend. Thank you also to Liz Hamer, Jo Kay, Clorinda Di Dio, Lisa Armstrong, Catherine Wade, Sara & Donald MacMillan, Arlene Soares, Nicole O’Rourke for assisting the setting up, cleaning and packing up after each meal.

Year 9 Reflection Days
Thank you to Erin Tan, Marie Short & Jude Clayton who assisted with the morning tea and lunch.

Veritas Youth Festival (April 22 - 24) - join the largest Catholic Youth Festival; amazing line up of speakers, music, discussion forums, workshops and festival activities. Registration is $50 (covers all the weekend events and food). Friday night is open to all ages for teens and young adults and the closing Mass – Youth Leaders Commissioning Mass, is also open to all. Registration online for free. Register at www.veritasperth.com. Veritas Youtube promo video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nVOjewKk08

Final Boarding Call for World Youth Day - join the pilgrimage to Poland for World Youth Day in July. Perth pilgrimages will travel with Archbishop Costelloe and Bishop Sproxton through Poland and an optional extension to Italy. Places are limited. Details available on www.cym.com.au or call 9422 7912 or email admin@cym.com.au. Registrations close 14 April. Perth WYD Youtube promo video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8p_7C9aAAt

St Mary’s School, Donnybrook - 100th Anniversary / Sunday 1 May / 10am Mass followed by an Open School event 11am - 3pm. For more information click HERE.